Daily Report

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FBIS-SOV-91-192 *3 October 1991*

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NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

NOTICE TO READERS: The United States Government recognizes the independence of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

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Arms Control & Disarmament

Concept of UN Nuclear 'Police Force' Contemplated

PM0210111391 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Oct 91 Union Edition p 10

["Editorial Office Viewpoint": "Why the United States Is Curtailing the Arms Race"]

[Text] George Bush has proclaimed the start of a new era in arms limitation, having announced on Friday the biggest cuts in the U.S. nuclear arsenal in history. The proposed reductions concern the majority of types of nuclear weapons, both strategic and tactical.

Of course, the United States expects the USSR to reciprocate and to reduce its nuclear arms sharply as well. Such "trustfulness" of the White House arises out of its confidence that disarmament and a sharp reduction in military spending will benefit the Soviet Union, which is now quite incapable of pulling the military cart. All the more so as the supporters of a tough line in the military-industrial complex will now find it hard to allude to a U.S. "nuclear threat." But at the same time the U.S. President is acting in the highest interests of his country. The United States is again using the arms race as an instrument to achieve political ends—this time, it is true, not by boosting it but, on the contrary, by curtailing it. And the ends themselves have also exchanged a "minus" for a "plus"—Washington is now interested not in stifling the USSR economically but, on the contrary, in giving it support. In addition, it is exceptionally important to the West that nothing should prevent Moscow from totally destroying its tactical nuclear weapons that are scattered throughout the vast country (and a considerable part of the strategic weapons). The threat of "nuclear chaos" associated with the current collapse of the Union would thereby be eliminated or reduced.

It is now time to think of further steps too. Of course, the USSR must follow the U.S. example. But then? Is it possible to move further ahead, right to the complete elimination of nuclear weapons? The U.S. President believes that it is still necessary to preserve a certain part of them—as a deterrent factor. And, as the example of Iraq has shown, weighty arguments exist in support of such a stand.

But there is also another path—the path of creating under UN auspices an international "police force" equipped with a certain minimum of nuclear weapons. This would free many countries, including, maybe, the sovereign republics of the former USSR, from their "nuclear inferiority" complex and, at the same time, ensure reliable guarantees of international security. In today's rapidly changing world this idea, first advanced in our country by Academician V. Goldanskiy, no longer seems totally fantastic.

Shevardnadze Welcomes Bush Arms Initiative

LD0310020591 Moscow TASS in English 1722 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow October 2 TASS—Eduard Shevardnadze, head of the Soviet Foreign Policy Association, on Wednesday welcomed U.S. President George Bush's initiative to radically reduce the U.S. nuclear arsenal as a move to develop and consolidate partnership and cooperation between the Soviet Union and the United States.

He said the elimination "of the world stockpiles of ground-based short-range nuclear weapons" means that soon all U.S. artillery shells and short-range warheads will be removed from Europe and other territories. Shevardnadze believes the move may generate similar processes in Europe.

Shevardnadze praised the decision to remove all U.S. strategic weapons, including nuclear bombs, from surface ships, attack submarines, land-based aircraft and aircraft carriers.

He stressed the Soviet Union should take reciprocal steps.

Shevardnadze described confidence-building measures proposed by Bush as "reasonable and responsible" and called the Soviet leadership to "support them and take reciprocal measures."

The U.S. initiative gives the Soviet Union an opportunity to reorganise its own strategic forces to strengthen trust and strategic stability.

Shevardnadze believes Bush's proposal to use non-nuclear means against limited missile attacks, or SDI programme, will draw strong fire.

He said, however, the SDI technology can be used not only for military purposes but also for solving global problems, including ecological monitoring, natural calamities forecasting and navigation safety.

Shevardnadze also stressed the need to ban nuclear testing and cooperate to ensure nuclear arsenals' safety.

'Reservations' About Bush Proposal, Prospects Eyed

PM0210102991 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Oct 91 Union Edition p 2

[Military correspondent V. Litovkin article: "Foreign Ministry and Defense Ministry Welcome G. Bush Initiative But With Reservations"]

[Text] A briefing for Soviet and foreign journalists on the theme of U.S. President Bush's initiative was held at the USSR Foreign Ministry 30 September. The briefing was conducted by USSR First Deputy Foreign Minister V. Petrovskiy and Deputy Minister A. Obukhov.

In his opening address, Vladimir Petrovskiy noted that the U.S. President's proposals are being viewed in the USSR as a major and historic event which takes us closer to a nuclear-free world. He stressed our country's readiness to cooperate with the United States in achieving this aim and said that the Soviet Union is ready to take steps of comparable significance toward the U.S. initiative. At the same time the first deputy minister noted that the "palette of G. Bush's proposals could have been even richer had it also included the ending of nuclear tests."

What measures does the Soviet side envisage? Journalists were told that Foreign Minister B. Pankin, who is currently in the United States, is in contact with U.S. Secretary of State J. Baker to work out specific proposals on the implementation of G. Bush's initiative. Aleksey Obukhov is flying to Washington in the first half of October to discuss and coordinate the Soviet counterproposals on the spot. They include proposals on talks to limit underground nuclear tests.

The participants in the briefing also noted that it is too soon to speak of anything more concrete because the U.S. President's proposal contains no real figures and it is not known how long it will take the two sides to complete the analytical work to agree with them. And if experience is any guide, that work will be extensive.

Colonel General B. Omelichev, first deputy chief of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff, also reacted positively to the U.S. President's proposals on tactical nuclear arms reduction. In a telephone conversation with your IZVESTIYA correspondent, he said that the Soviet military are ready for a whole series of mutual confidence-building measures. For example, if the United States drops alert status for strategic bombers we will be ready to remove our heavy bombers as an equivalent step. As for ICBMs, this question, in Omelichev's opinion, should be examined in the framework of talks on strategic stability.

Defense Ministry experts at the level of colonel and lieutenant colonel with whom I talked on Monday were more reserved in their assessments although they, too, received with satisfaction the news that the United States is ready to eliminate its entire arsenal of land-based tactical nuclear weapons and to remove tactical nuclear weapons, including sea-launched nuclear cruse missiles, from surface ships, including aircraft carriers and attack submarines.

They also note as a positive factor the decision to remove nuclear weapons from naval aircraft and the fact that a considerable part of those armaments will be scrapped and the remainder sited at arsenals and dumps in the central United States.

"We withdrew our tactical nuclear weapons from the territory of central Europe long ago," they recalled, "including Germany."

In 1989 there were 500 tactical combat weapons (166 aviation weapons, 50 artillery shells, and 284 missiles), plus around another 200 tactical missile launchers (Scud-B, Tochka, and Luna complexes), over 3,000 units of nuclear artillery (artillery pieces of 152 mm and above capable of firing nuclear shells) and the corresponding number of nuclear charges.

Experts stress the Soviet military's readiness to continue working with the Americans on reducing and completely eliminating tactical nuclear weapons as an entire class of deadly weapons of mass destruction.

At the same time they greeted with a certain degree of skepticism the proposal on the "confining to garrison" ["ostatsionirovaniye"] of mobile launchers for ICBMs and removing MRV ICBMs from the strategic nuclear forces.

"This proposal," I was told by a lieutenant colonel and participant in the arms reduction talks, "is contrary to the START Treaty. After all, a balance of forces and interests has been achieved there and it would be very dangerous to upset that because this could give definite advantages to one side. In particular, the 'confining' of our mobile heavy launchers would give the Americans advantages."

There are other questions which, in the Soviet military experts' opinion, require serious and thorough study and the clarification of many technical aspects and timetables for the implementation of these and other programs. After all, it will take quite a long time to drop alert status for 400-500 ICBMs. And that period may coincide with the timetable of the agreed reductions of strategic offensive arms.

At the same time, everyone I managed to talk with noted the Soviet military's readiness to cooperate with their transatlantic partners in the secure, environmentally safe storage, transport, and destruction of nuclear munitions and also in achieving the maximum guarantee that the unsanctioned use of nuclear weapons will be excluded, and in an accord on the complete cessation of underground nuclear tests.

I think that these talks will be difficult. But there is confidence that nuclear security benefits both sides. And that inspires the hope that the prospects are good for the U.S. President's initiative.

Arms Initiatives Spur Progress at Vienna Talks

LD0210191791 Moscow TASS in English 1846 GMT 2 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Smelov]

[Text] Vienna October 2 TASS—As the United States stuns the world with a decision to radically reduce its nuclear arsenal and the Soviet Union promises equal moves, the Vienna talks on confidence-building measures and security in Europe steadily remove one obstacle after another on the way towards safer Europe.

The negotiators have agreed to create a network of direct communication between CSCE countries and discussed ways to cover its expenses. The network will help reduce the distance between CSCE countries's capitals and lay a foundation of a common European home.

However, there is much to do yet in working out a new package of confidence-building measures to be approved by the forthcoming summit meeting Helsinki-2 in the spring of 1992.

The package will envisage restricting measures to reduce military activities, information exchanges and selective evaluations of irregular military units temporarily deployed for routine training, and the expansion of exchanges of information on various types of weapons and military activities.

R600 Billion Said Wasted on Unnecessary Missiles

LD0210091191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0710 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow, 2 Oct (TASS)—Petr Korotkevich, one of the creators of the country's "nuclear shield" whose work was top secret for three decades, gave an interview for the first time in his life to LITERATURNAYA GAZETA observer Yuriy Shchekochikhin, published in today's edition of the weekly.

P. Korotkevich worked, as he himself admitted, on prospects for developing a new generation of ground, sea, and space based missiles. He was deputy chairman of the scientific and technical coordination council of ministries of industrial defense sectors and the USSR Academy of Sciences.

P. Korotkevich claims that former Defense Council Deputy Chairman Baklanov was the chief person behind the attempted coup d'etat in August. People like Baklanov were planted in key posts at the end of the Brezhnev era. "Staffing policy was destroyed, and people began to appear from nowhere." They trampled on everyone, "the Central Committee defense department on the entire defense establishment, and the international department on the entire USSR KGB."

Petr Korotkevich is convinced that "there was no sense whatsoever in creating medium and short-range missiles, the so-called SS-20s, when we have aircraft." The decision to create and deploy these missiles, in his words, "was taken secretly." He stressed that, as a result, 600 rubles [R] billion was spent creating these weapons, "money which could have gone toward tackling civilian tasks and toward aircraft of which there is a catastrophic shortage in the country."

Also believing the attempt to develop a "Star Wars" program in the country to be pointless, P. Korotkevich noted that behind it also "was Baklanov, then minister of general machine-building; Shishkin, his deputy, who later became minister; Semenov, Kirilenko's son-in-law; and Gubanov, Shcherbitskiy's brother-in-law." The scientist added that each one saw himself "in a new post after SDI: Baklanov as Central Committee secretary, Shishkin as minister, and Semenov as general designer".

"Only a fool" could agree with this program "of detonating missiles over Moscow and solving the problem this way." Billions of rubles, in P. Korotkevich's words, went "toward creating a system for long-range missile detection so as to be in time to...notify the Politburo."

In his conversation with the paper's observer, Petr Korotkevich also disputes the figures of the country's military budget. In his words, 300 billion is going toward the military-industrial complex and maintaining the army. This is not simply a quota but a quota backed up by funds.

It was the fact that he disagreed with the policy implemented in the industry which forced P. Korotkevich to give up his post a year ago. Now he plans to engage in strictly peaceful affairs, using his wealth of experience of working for war.

Worldwide Issues

Gorbachev Meets CSCE Conference Participants

LD0210153691 Moscow TASS in English 1516 GMT 2 Oct 91

[By correspondent Lyudmila Shvedova; TASS kills the following item in a service message at 1900 GMT on 2 October]

[Text] Moscow October 2 TASS—President Mikhail Gorbachev met Arthur Schneier and Shirshanna Carden, American public figures who are in the Soviet Union to attend the third CSCE Conference on Human Dimension, in the Kremlin this afternoon.

Arthur Schneier is a New York rabbi and a member of the board of the International Foundation for the Survival and Development of Mankind. Carden is chairperson of the National Conference for the Affairs of Soviet Jews, an organization enjoying wide support on the part of U.S. statesmen and the business community.

Both have done much to improve Soviet-American relations and deepen mutual understanding between the peoples of the two countries.

Views Jewish Issue With U.S. Delegate

LD0210220691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1935 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow, 2 Oct (TASS)—M.S. Gorbachev had a conversation today with Mrs. Shoshana Cardin, chairperson of the U.S. National Conference for the Affairs of Soviet Jews, which represents 50 federal and 30 local organizations and which enjoys the support of the majority of U.S. Jews. S. Cardin is a member of the U.S. delegation to the Conference on the Human Dimension

in Moscow. She is also in our country in connection with the 50th anniversary of the tragedy of Babiy Yar.

She was interested to hear the president's views on the problems to which she has devoted her efforts. M.S. Gorbachev began with the question of emigration. There are, of course, certain circumstances, family links and interests, but we are pained by the continuing emigration. We would like everything that is now being accomplished in the democratic transformation of our society to benefit all our peoples, including the Jews. The atmosphere in our society is really changing, and it is also changing with regard to the Jewish question.

Our international links have also changed considerably with Jewish business and with the State of Israel. We value this, and we intend to develop healthy relations. In Israel, we see great interest in our life and some concern for our country. This is natural because a vast number of Israel's citizens emigrated from here. We are in favor of the all-round links between the peoples of the two countries becoming increasingly close and direct [tesnyy i blizkiy].

Of course, there are problems connected with anti-Semitism, and there are different reasons for this. But on the whole, the president noted, our society is not infected with it. The progress of the democratic processes and the strengthening of the legal foundations of state life will remove anything morbid and negative.

S. Cardin brought up the Jewish question in the context of relations between the USSR and the United States. M.S. Gorbachev expressed his well-known assessment of the importance of improving these relations for the world and underlined the determination to move toward harmonizing and bringing together the interests of the two great peoples. At present the interaction is concentrating not only on the task of fully eliminating the nuclear threat, which found impressive expression in George Bush's initiative and our response to it, but also on the economic aspect of these relations, which has moved to the forefront of today's agenda. The president noted that it is very important, for the whole world community, to stimulate real assistance for the democratic process in our country by all means, including through the participation of such organizations as represented by Ms. Cardin, at a difficult transitional period in our development.

Questions that are particularly worrying foreigners at the moment—the fate of the union, relations between the republics, and what state other nations will have to deal with here—were also answered. M.S. Gorbachev spoke about preparing an economic agreement and the Union treaty, which will be signed any moment now.

I am convinced, he concluded on this subject, that the logic of life will overcome the logic of any other intentions.

Answering a question from S. Cardin, M.S. Gorbachev promised to return again, in the new situation, to the question of "the duration of secrecy restrictions" and of the so-called "refuseniks."

The president expressed his reaction to the upcoming remembrance ceremony in Babiy Yar, speaking about the feeling of deep bitterness and anger that this terrible Nazi crime provokes. It is important that the date be commemorated on such a large scale because the tragedy of the innocent people who died there deserves an eternal memory and is still important to those living now.

Bidding farewell to S. Cardin, M.S. Gorbachev expressed satisfaction with the meeting and hoped that it would contribute to extending mutual understanding and developing good relations.

Martin Vanik, A.S. Grachev, and A.S. Chernyayev were present for the meeting.

Delegate Asks for Help With Exit Visas

LD0210222491 Moscow TASS in English 2057 GMT 2 Oct 91

[By correspondents Sergey Nikishev and Andrey Pershin]

[Text] Moscow October 2 TASS—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on Wednesday received Shoshana Cardin, chairperson of the National Conference for the Affairs of Soviet Jews, and Martin Vanik, executive director of this organisation, which enjoys wide support of state figures and business circles.

Cardin, who is attending the third human rights conference in Moscow, told journalists at the conference press centre in the Slavyanskaya Hotel Gorbachev initiated the discussion on anti-Semitism.

She said they also discussed prospects for establishing diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Israel and other issues, including U.S.-Soviet ties.

Cardin said Gorbachev was optimistic. "Some in your country believe there is no Soviet Union. Let me assure you that the old Soviet Union is no more. But there is a new Soviet Union and there will be a new Soviet Union," she quoted him as saying.

Cardin urged Gorbachev to help 350 Soviet Jews that have been refused exit visas to leave for Israel.

China

Joint Border Inspection Undertaken With PRC

OW0310095491 Moscow Central Television First Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1030 GMT 29 Oct 91

[L. Stroykov video report; from the "TV inform" newscast]

[Text] The changes in the political situation in the country and in the world bring about a modification in relations between border guards in adjoining states. Here is reportage from the Far East.

[Begin Stroykov recording] Such a thing has not been seen on the Amur river for about 30 years: a joint border patrol is being carried out by boats of our border troops and those of the border guards of the People's Republic of China. The fishing season has started, and the noble fishes, which are the main treasure of this area, are spawning. The fishermen, who an enthusiastic people, might cross the invisible border line, which runs along the fairway.

It is relatively good if it is only a mistake and not a policy sponsored by authorities. The problem is that fishing activities from the Chinese side of the river never stopped, while fishing from our side was simply forbidden. Specialists know that the quota for the fish caught by the Chinese fishermen is much higher than ours, although the facilities for restoring the fish stock are on the Soviet side. This question has not been settled yet at the governmental level. Today, the fishing stations sprawl on both sides of the Amur river, and the border guards have more worries than ever. [Video shows Soviet, Chinese border guards talking to fishermen on the shore, interview with (Huan Tsinlin) Deputy Boundary Representative of the Fuyuan District, and A. Burak, Soviet Deputy Boundary Representative]

[Huan Tsinlin] I am very glad that today we have inspected the Amur sector of the border together with the Soviet boundary representatives. This is a new thing in our contact, and we noticed with satisfaction that, at the jointly inspected sector, good order is maintained.

[Burak] Today's joint inspection is part of an effort to find new ways to defend the state border in the context of the concept of border defense. Time will prove whether it will catch at the state border or prove its usefulness. But the results of today's raid are obvious—there was better order at the state border today than on previous days.

[Stroykov] The joint inspection of the Far East border was carried out at the suggestion of the Soviet side. [end recording]

Soviet-Chinese Economic Contacts 'Very Lively'

OW0310013991 Moscow Radio Moscow in Mandarin 1100 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] [Excerpt] Drastic changes have taken place in the Soviet Union following the abortive coup in August, but the development of good-neighborly relations between the Soviet Union and China remains the objective of Soviet foreign policy. This was mentioned by Vice Foreign Minister Rogachev in his talks with Vice Foreign Minister Tian Zengpei in Moscow. The Soviet side reiterated its commitment to the joint communiques signed at the summit meetings between the two countries in 1989 and 1991. In an interview with a Hong Kong television station reporter, Chinese State Council Premier Li Peng said that after the normalization of relations between the Soviet Union and China in 1989, ties between the two sides have developed steadily.

Economic contacts between the two countries have also been very lively. At the end of September, the Soviet Union delivered the second 1276-AK passenger plane, ordered by China last year, to the Chinese. Last year China ordered three such passenger planes from the Soviet Union.

Two Chinese industrial exhibitions opened in the Soviet Union simultaneously, one in Moscow and another in Khabarovsk. Many industrial technologies and manufactured products for daily use were displayed at the Beijing 1991 industrial technological exhibition in Moscow. Nearly 80 companies and scientific research institutes exhibited their achievements in Moscow, which included computers, television sets, VCRs, medical equipment, pharmaceutical products, and foodstuffs. Jilin Province's scientific and technological results were displayed at the exhibition in Khabarovsk. Also displayed were agricultural products, foodstuffs, processing equipment, medical apparatuses, and daily necessities. The main purpose of the exhibitions is to establish bilateral economic ties.

An eastern medical center was established in (Gong Qing) City on the Amur River. The doctors who serve here come from Harbin. They render medical service to patients by using acupuncture, massage, and other traditional Chinese methods. It is expected that a few more such centers will be established in that city. [passage omitted]

Broadcasting Cooperation Pact Renewed With China

OW0210042291 Moscow Radio Moscow in Mandarin 2200 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] Listeners: The All-Soviet State Television Broadcasting Corporation signed the cooperation agreement for 1991-92 with the PRC Ministry of Radio, Film, and Television's Beijing Broadcasting College in Moscow on 30 September. Please listen to a report by station reporter Sorodin on the subject.

[Sorodin] Before signing the new agreement, the Soviet and Chinese delegations held a two-day work meeting, which summed up the results of cooperation since the signing of the cooperation protocol in April 1989. Satisfied with the results, both sides pointed out that progress has been made in experience exchanges between television broadcasting experts from the Soviet Union and China. The new 1991-92 agreement should further consolidate this progress and promote further cooperation of mutual benefit between the two countries.

(Yegolov), director of the All-Soviet Advanced College for Television Broadcasting Cadres, signed on behalf of the Soviet side. Comrade (Liu Jinan), first deputy

director of the Beijing Broadcasting College, signed on behalf of the Chinese side. I would like to invite them to air their views on the present conditions and prospects for cooperation between the two countries in training qualified television broadcasting personnel. First, please listen to a talk given by (Liu Jinan), first deputy director of the Beijing Broadcasting College.

[Begin recording (Liu Jinan)] We have made overall progress in the training and exchange of qualified personnel. Both sides are happy with its smooth implementation. Lectures given by professors of both sides [words indistinct] have contributed positively to the training of television broadcasting personnel. [words indistinct] We would like to express our gratitude for this. I think, other than consolidating results we have achieved in the past, the signing of the new agreement will build a good foundation for broader future cooperation. [words indistinct] We have talked about organizing international academic seminars and other social activities. We will hold further discussions on these when Director (Yegolov) visits the Beijing Broadcasting College next year. On the whole, the overall exchanges between institutes of higher learning play a very positive role in advancing professionalism in our television broadcasting. [end recording]

[Sorodin] (Yegolov), director of the All-Soviet Advanced College for Television Broadcasting Cadres, fully agrees with the views of Comrade (Liu Jinan), adding that he hopes cooperation agreements with other partners, like that with their Chinese counterpart, will be thoroughly implemented.

[Begin recording (Yegolov)] We maintain that such cooperation in the field of television broadcasting will simultaneously improve relations between the people of the two countries. The current visit by our Chinese counterparts also bears special significance, as it is made while we are anticipating the visit of Ai Zhisheng, Chinese Minister of Radio, Film, and Television, to the Soviet Union. We believe that cooperation between us will be developed further. [end recording]

Chinese Workers May Build Sakhalin Railroads

PM0210092191 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 1 Oct 91 First Edition p 1

[RIA-TASS-ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA report under general headline: "News in Brief"]

[Text] PRC citizens may possibly be employed in Sakhalin as construction and railroad workers. This question was discussed at a meeting of the leaders of the Far East and Harbin Railroads. The protocol of intent signed by the two sides also envisages shipments of small-scale machinery from China to Sakhalin.

Near East & South Asia

Pakistani Arms to Afghanistan Criticized

PM0310083991 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Oct 91 Union Edition p 7

[Report by G. Charodeyev: "Arms Shipments From Pakistan Are Continuing"]

[Text] Foreign news media have reported large deliveries of arms and ammunition, including heavy combat hardware and missiles, from Pakistan to deep inside Afghan territory in recent days. Daily, large numbers of trucks carrying modern weapons and munitions are heading for Afghanistan. In this context V. Petrovskiy, USSR first deputy foreign minister, declared at a briefing for Soviet and foreign journalists that such actions can only lead to an escalation of violence and create additional obstacles in the path of a peaceful settlement in Afghanistan. "They also run counter to official statements of the Pakistani leadership about its commitment to a political solution of the problem and support for the 21 May statement of the UN secretary general."

These actions are causing particular concern today, V. Petrovskiy said, when in the light of the Soviet-American joint statement on Afghanistan a realistic path towards a speedy solution of the Afghan problem has emerged. The first deputy minister expressed the hope that the Pakistani Government will make use of all the opportunities at its disposal to prevent new loss of life and destruction in Afghanistan.

Afghan Prime Minister Arrives in Moscow

LD0310091291 Moscow TASS in English 0837 GMT 3 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow October 3 TASS—Afghan Prime Minister Fazl Haq Khaliqyar arrived in Moscow on October 2 for a working visit at the invitation of the Soviet Government.

At the airport he was met by Yuriy Luzhkov, deputy head of the Economic Management Committee, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Belonogov and other officials.

Aspects of Settlement in Afghanistan Viewed

92UF0010A Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Sep 91 pp 1,3

[Article by PRAVDA special correspondent Yu. Vladimirov: "Afghanistan: The Third Autumn Without the 'Shuravi'"]

[Text] Kabul, September— **This is the third autumn in Afghanistan after the withdrawal of Soviet troops. Despite numerous prophecies concerning the demise of the "pro-Soviet" regime in Kabul, it has persevered. Is it really all that "pro-Soviet?" Important amendments stressing the Islamic character of the state have long been made to the**

constitution of the republic. These amendments have opened up a wide field for political pluralism, a multisectoral economy, and ethnic and religious traditions. A nonparty figure, F.H. Khaliqyar, headed the newly formed government. The Fatherland Party (previously the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan) continues to renew itself. It has given up voluntarism, pseudorevolutionary slogans, and political monopoly.

The Afghans are exhausted by 13 years of war. The war has interfered with farming their fields and vineyards, building their dwellings, and trading. In Kabul, for example, one can expect to be killed at any moment by rockets which the mujahidin continuously fire at the city. The population is demanding more and more persistently that a compromise be reached as soon as possible between the opposing sides.

A settlement in Afghanistan has three aspects: national, regional, and international. I will attempt to outline them briefly.

Each political force (11 parties and about 20 public organizations have been officially registered in Kabul), and each nationality and ethnic group (people belonging to more than 20 nationalities and 110 tribes live in Afghanistan) strives to arrive at a settlement with a position more solid than its opponents. This is where the danger of disintegration emerges. Separatist circles are already demanding that separate territories of Pushtunistan, Nuristan, and Khazarjat be created. The ethnic minorities which have historically been oppressed want to take social revenge. At present, weapons are frequently used when coming to terms. This is why the task of accelerating the process of pacification and doing everything in order that a dialogue between the Afghan parties begin as soon as possible is becoming paramount.

This is what the efforts of the government of the republic and its President Najibullah are aimed. However, the mojahedin demand his removal. What are the possible consequences of this turn of events? As observers see it, this would mean the creation of a power vacuum which would entail chaos, a stepped-up armed struggle on the scale of the entire country, and an increase in regional tensions.

The armed opposition draws on not just moral support from Pakistan, Iran, and the United States. Saudi Arabia remains the chief financial sponsor. Pakistani and Arab military men, "tutors" within the ranks of the mojahedin, take part in combat operations. Meetings between representatives of the Shi'ite and Sunni Afghan opposition and Iranian and Pakistani officials were held recently in Islamabad and Tehran. The main objective of these conferences was to consolidate the opposition to carry on the armed struggle and to share leading positions in "a future Islamic Afghanistan." It is no secret that Islamabad has nurtured plans to create a Pakistani-Afghan confederation for a long time, and that the Islamic leadership of Iran strives to take advantage of the situation to reinforce its leading position in the region.

The Soviet-American declaration on Afghanistan opens up a realistic path to stopping the war. The leadership of the republic and public organizations have welcomed the concept of convening a representative international conference on Afghanistan, on which the document is built, and have expressed their readiness to contribute to its success in every way possible, vigorously cooperating to this end with the United Nations and all interested parties.

President Najibollah, who issued an address to the nation, called on the opposition to take practical steps toward a cease-fire, and to begin the immediate implementation of this measure at the level of the villages, volosts [rural districts], uyezds [townships], and provinces. He proposed that the leaders of parties and groups based in Pakistan and Iran open representative offices in Kabul, with complete guarantees for their security, with a view to speeding up peace negotiations.

The opposition leaders took a different view of the Soviet-American initiative. They rejected it. A thesis about "collusion between the USSR and the United States" aimed at preserving the Kabul regime was put into circulation. The cry of "war until victory" was raised again.

Was this not the reason why the mojahedin undertook a massive offensive against government positions in the southeast of the country this week? Within two days alone about 2,000 rockets rained on Gardez. Ghazni, Qalat, and other Afghan cities also came under fire.

We, the Soviet people, also await the establishment of peace in Afghanistan. Our country is interested in the Soviet-Afghan border, which is 2,384 kilometers long, continuing to be a border of peace and good neighbor relations, and in Afghanistan being independent and nonaligned, with a full set of diverse, mutually advantageous ties and partnership relations with the USSR, Russia, and the Union republics. We should not forget our moral responsibilities for sending troops to the land of Afghanistan and for the Soviet and Afghan citizens who perished in the crucible of an extended armed conflict. Hundreds of thousands of Soviet people who have been through the Afghanistan experience are not at all indifferent to the future of that country and the situation that emerges there.

As the Issue Was Being Typeset

Islamabad, 25 September (TASS)—The leaders of the Afghan mojahedin, who are engaged in an armed struggle against the Kabul government, have announced "a general amnesty." The latter applies to supporters of President Najibollah who have gone over to the opposition, or may do so in the immediate future. As MIDIA, the information service of "the transitional government" of the opposition, reports, this decision was made at a conference of leaders of Afghan antigovernment groups based in Pakistan which was held in Peshawar on Tuesday [24 September]. The amnesty applies to soldiers and officers of the armed forces, employees of state

offices, and all other persons associated with the Kabul regime to one degree or another.

Statement Views Palestine Council Meeting

LD0210173991 Moscow TASS in English 1723 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow October 2 TASS—The Soviet Union maintains close contacts with the Palestinian leadership and intends to continue its interaction with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in the interests of reaching a radical and comprehensive Arab-Israeli settlement, a Soviet Foreign Ministry official said in a statement on the results of the 20th session of the Palestinian National Council (parliament), that was held in Algeria from September 23-28.

The main political significance of the decisions made in Algeria, the Soviet official stressed, consists in the fact that the Palestinian parliament, the supreme body of the Palestinian movement, welcomed peaceful efforts now made in the region and expressed readiness to positively interact with the Soviet-U.S. Initiative to convene a Mideast Peace Conference.

The Soviet Union believes, the official said, that the results of the session enable Palestinians to take further practical steps adequate to the present stage of concentrating efforts by the international community and, above all, the Soviet Union and the United States, to set in motion the real peace process in the Middle East.

The political statement adopted by the session records a number of concerns felt by all Palestinians in connection first of all with the legitimate desire of the Palestinian people to ensure their national rights.

The Soviet Union proceeds from the assumption that other sides must take these concerns into account, particularly in the part relating to the settlement campaign by Israeli authorities on occupied lands, the Soviet official's statement says.

Mubarak Visit to Moscow Shows 'Solidarity'

92UF0011A Moscow TRUD in Russian 26 Sep 91 p 5

[Article by TRUD correspondent Z. Nalbandyan: "Ten Years at the Helm of Egypt. Egyptian President Mohammed Hosni Mubarak Arrives in Moscow Today"]

[Text] Cairo—There was a time when in their articles political commentators were always hinting that Hosni Mubarak had become president of Egypt by accident and that he somehow did not even deserve it. He could have remained commander of the Air Force until he retired had former Egyptian leader Anwar Sadat not put a distance between himself and his rivals in 1975 and promoted to the position of vice president a general who was not used to politics. And were it not for those fatal shots during the parade in Cairo in October 1981 this general would never have sat in the chair of the head of state.

This approach even implied a certain kind of praise: Power was unexpectedly handed to the person and he did not lose his head, he was able to cope, and he dealt with the situation! And although the picture is well constructed, in my view, it by no means corresponds to reality. Because the 10 years that will have passed next week convince me that Mohammed Hosni Mubarak was ready to rule the country.

They say that not so long ago in an African country where coups had become regular events, a group of people like those on the "State Committee for the State of Emergency" who were dissatisfied with the "spinelessness" of the current ruler went to the defense minister and asked him to take over power. The minister thought a while and then said: Power that is seized is not kept very long, and what would I do with it?

Mubarak knew what to do. Very quickly it became clear that the former military pilot had his own versions of solutions to Egypt's political, economic, and social problems. And the problems were not simple.

At the beginning of the eighties the country ended up almost completely isolated from the rest of the Arab world. That was their "punishment" for signing the peace treaty with Israel. The majority of Arab leaders did not want to talk with Tel Aviv and continued to pursue a course toward open confrontation. H. Mubarak took a much more difficult but civilized path. He did not try to "correct Sadat's mistake" and break off relations with Israel in order to return to the good graces of the Arabs. He did not do this either during the Israeli aggression in Lebanon in 1982 or at the peak of the "intifadah"—the Palestinian national uprising. He did not even resort to a method which is time-tested in the East—reviling the enemy with verbal abuse. But in the restrained, diplomatic terms of the high Egyptian leader, he clearly outlined their firm position in the Arab-Israeli conflict. This approach required restraint and courage. But as a result he ended up being the only one who was reliable. And when in 1989 in Cairo the flags of Arab states were raised one after another over the restored embassies, this was a victory for all the Egyptian people and above all for their consistent and patient president. It is simply that 10 years ago H. Mubarak understood what many others in the Arab world came to understand only after the war in the Persian Gulf, that in order to solve the Palestinian problem it is necessary to sit down at the negotiating table.

It took no less courage on the part of the earstwhile general to place the country on a democratic course and not allow any winds to blow it from the path. From our own bitter experience we already know how difficult it is for the tender shoots of democracy to force their way through the totalitarian armor. And in the East this armor is much tougher. Having begun by releasing

political prisoners and shaking hands with dissidents, H. Mubarak consistently returned the society to political health. And it is largely thanks to him that today Egyptians are living in an atmosphere of openness, party pluralism, and biting discussion in the parliament and in newspapers. Although there have been repeated political cataclysms in Egypt over the past 10 years, the president has not halted the democratic process for a single day.

The economy requires a special discussion. In the middle of the seventies A. Sadat came to the conclusion that the socialist method of management, which Nasser had chosen for Egypt, was a dead end. Having recognized this, the former Egyptian president took a decisive step: He shifted the economic control of the country from distributive socialism to free market relations. Today, after the well-known events in Eastern Europe and the USSR, this change might seem natural to the reader. But in 1974 Egypt was the first large country in the world where next to the clumsy and not very productive state sector a private sector arose and began to develop rapidly.

Later, however, it became clear that simple declarations were not enough. The market requires lengthy and painstaking preparation in the spheres of legislation and financial policy and, finally, in the people's psychology. And, of course, it requires a new infrastructure. A. Sadat managed only to proclaim capitalism. All the weight of its introduction into modern Egyptian life lay on the shoulders of H. Mubarak.

Today we are going to the West for advice, and this, of course, is natural because it is best to study material from the "original sources." They are well aware of where they must go. But I think we should be very interested in the ideas of H. Mubarak about how in practice to make a transition from one economic formation to another, how, without worsening the already difficult situation of the underprivileged segments of society, to invest billions in the construction of new highways and airports, the building of subway lines and electric power transmission lines, the development of communications systems and the service industry.

Egypt's experience is valuable in that our country is moving by the trial and error method along the path from the administrative command system to the market, frequently balancing on the edge of the abyss. And, after all, many "brilliant" ideas originating today in the heads of certain political figures and economists were tried and rejected by the Egyptians long ago.

The results are still modest, but it is very important to choose a correct point of reference. In 1985 when I visited Egypt for the first time I discovered an abundance of imported goods in the stores of Cairo. Today there are practically no imports but the shelves of the stores are not empty and the quality is no worse. They produce everything in Egypt, from computers and video tape recorders to the most diverse kinds of clothing and footwear; from the latest military equipment to first-class cosmetics.

This year the Egyptian government achieved convertibility of its currency and signed an all-inclusive agreement with the International Monetary Fund. (This is another piece of useful experience for us!) They are still a long way from prosperity but the deep transformations made by the Egyptian authorities make it possible to hope that the country will be able to emerge from its economic difficulties in the near future.

When H. Mubarak came to power, Soviet-Egyptian relations were cold to say the least. The number of embassy personnel had been cut sharply, there was barely any hope for trade, and there were no cultural contacts. The new president began slowly and cautiously to bring ties between our countries back to a normal, civilized level. Some people are inclined to think that this was a manifestation of the old sympathy for the USSR acquired during his training in the Military Academy Imeni Frunze in Moscow during 1964-1965. I do not think, however, that this is a matter of personal sympathies or antipathies but of the national interests of the country of which he is in charge. It was obvious that Nasser's orientation toward the Soviet Union alone, and Sadat's "toward the United States alone" did not do any appreciable good for Egypt's political image. And, although H. Mubarak called the Near Eastern policy of the former Soviet leaders "dangerous," nonetheless relations with the USSR gradually began to warm up, and after the course we adopted in 1985 toward democratization they became much warmer.

Today the USSR and Egypt, as officials of both countries have stated repeatedly, are working hand in hand on achieving peace and stability in the Near East and are cooperating actively in the international arena.

The events of August caught the Egyptians unawares. According to our diplomats in Cairo, the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the president's chancellery followed the development of events in Moscow with alarm and repeatedly tried to obtain information about the condition of the health of the legitimate Soviet president. In personal conversations, highly placed Egyptian bureaucrats did not conceal their sharply negative attitude toward the State Committee for the State of Emergency. As soon as they learned on 21 August that M. Gorbachev was at a dacha in Foros, President Mubarak immediately tried to make contact with the head of the Soviet state. The readers will probably recall that at a press conference after his return to Moscow when discussing his first contacts with foreign leaders, M. Gorbachev mentioned his conversation with H. Mubarak.

The Egyptian president affirmed his solidarity with the August democratic revolution in the USSR with a resolute step which was also extremely difficult for his country. The fact is that during past decades trade

between the USSR and Egypt had been conducted within the framework of joint protocols and accounts were kept with a mutually agreed upon, so-called "clearing pound." Under the conditions of perestroyka many Soviet enterprises changed over to the sale of their products for freely convertible currency. The mythical clearing ceased to interest them. As a result, for the first time in the entire history of trade between our countries, the USSR owed Egypt goods worth a sum of more than 200 million rubles. Some time ago the Egyptian side, not having received all of the promised coking coal and timber materials, in turn, froze deliveries of consumer goods. And now, at the end of August, President H. Mubarak, understanding the difficulties our country is experiencing today, gave an order to resume delivery to the USSR of cargo that is vitally important to us.

Why is H. Mubarak going to the Soviet Union? It is difficult to imagine that our country in its present condition could render any kind of economic aid to Egypt. Just as, incidentally, Egypt with its billions of dollars and its economy, which is just getting on its feet, is hardly able to have much of an effect on our economy; although we do have many active businessmen who are prepared to use their investments to contribute to our rebirth.

As one of the most respected Egyptian political journalists told me on the eve of the visit, H. Mubarak, who sincerely adheres to democratic principles and common sense in politics, is going to the Union in order to show his solidarity with our people and with our leaders and to extend a strong, friendly hand to them at this difficult moment.

...Externally he does not look much like the traditional Eastern leader. He speaks simply, he smiles, mannerisms are foreign to him, and he is uneasy when he receives compliments. But it is no accident that an Italian journalist compared him to the Sphinx because of his reliability, fidelity to his principles, and solid confidence. Perhaps this taciturn Egyptian will overturn the old traditions? The East is changing, the leaders are changing...

Joint Israeli Air Venture Launches First Flight

LD0210142191 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1800 GMT 1 Oct 91

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] An Aerolikht joint enterprise aircraft left Vnukovo Airport today on its first direct flight from Moscow to Tel Aviv. The flight left at 1700, delayed by seven hours. The numerous holdups prior to the departure of the first flight will, nevertheless, not scare off the potential passenger, not exactly spoiled by Aeroflot's service. Tickets for the direct flight to Tel Aviv will only be sold for hard currency. The service on the flight is business class only. The flights will be protected by special security services.

East Europe

Pankin in CSFR To Explore Treaty, Relations

LD0210115791 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2240 GMT 1 Oct 91

[By correspondent Vitaliy Yaroshevskiy]

[Text] Prague, 1 Oct (TASS)—USSR Foreign Minister Boris Pankin arrives in Prague on a working visit today. This is the first real—as people here are calling it—visit to Czechoslovakia by a head of the Soviet foreign policy department since 1975.

B. Pankin's three-day agenda in the CSFR is packed to the limit, including talks with President Vaclav Havel, Federal Assembly Chairman Alexander Dubcek, and Prime Minister Marian Calfa. There will be meetings with the Czech and Slovak leaders. B. Pankin will hold talks with Jiri Dienstbier, his Czechoslovak counterpart. It is expected that the treaty between the USSR and CSFR on good-neighborliness, friendly relations, and cooperation will be initialled.

The draft of this document, which raises bilateral relations to a qualitatively new level, was ready as early as April this year. Discussion of disputed matters over the course of the next few months, however, was effectively deadlocked through the fault of the Soviet side, and Yuliy Kvitsinskiy, former USSR first deputy foreign minister, allowed himself to speak in the vein of the 1971 Treaty on Friendship suiting the USSR. The stumbling block was the article on refusing the parties to the treaty to enter into alliances hostile to each other, on which Moscow insisted. This article restricted the sovereignty of Czechoslovakia and deprived it of the opportunity of choosing a security system. As V. Havel said recently, the USSR Foreign Ministry renounced the disputed clause soon after the failed coup d'etat in the USSR.

It should be noted that the new treaty removes obstacles to direct diplomatic contacts between the sovereign Soviet republics and Czechoslovakia. Aleksandr Lebedev, the USSR ambassador to the CSFR, who presented his credentials to the head of the state of Czechoslovakia on 30 September, expressed in a conversation with journalists the hope that this document would soon be ratified by the signatures of the presidents of the two countries. He stressed that M.S. Gorbachev was awaited in Prague and that it was possible he would visit in the foreseeable future.

B. Pankin's mission is being connected by people here with the new phase in relations between the USSR and CSFR and the renunciation of the "nonpriority funding principle" in the USSR's policy on Czechoslovakia. It is not coincidental that, during the visit, attention will be paid to economic cooperation, to issues concerning assets, and to the law arising from the stationing of Soviet troops in Czechoslovakia. A plan for cooperation in culture, science, and education and agreements on visa-free travel will be signed.

Views Economic Ties With Dienstbier

LD0210200191 Moscow TASS in English 1937 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Prague October 2 TASS—Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin on Wednesday met his Czechoslovak counterpart Jiri Dienstbier and Minister of Economics Vladimir Dlouhy to discuss bilateral economic cooperation.

The ministers discussed Soviet-Czechoslovak relations and expressed hope that the key documents that will soon be initialed and signed will give powerful impetus to Soviet-Czechoslovak ties.

The ministers agreed to finalise and sign an agreement on financial and property issues pertaining to the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Czechoslovakia.

The ministers stressed the August coup in the Soviet Union has removed political hurdles that hampered Soviet-Czechoslovak trade and economic ties over the past 12-18 months.

To develop market relations between both countries, the sides will direct their efforts to find ways to supply Czechoslovakia with Soviet fuel and energy.

Discussing cooperation between the West, eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, the ministers said it may be mutually beneficial and stressed the need for specific projects.

Pankin and Dienstbier focused on international issues, including the European process, the situation in Yugoslavia and the activity of the United Nations.

Analyst Views Czechoslovak Concerns About Germany

LD2809034591 Moscow TASS in English 1820 GMT 27 Sep 91

[By international analyst Valeriy Rzhevskiy]

[Text] Moscow September 27 TASS—The Association of Independent Intellectuals of Czechoslovakia "Society 2001" has addressed an open letter to the governments of the United States, the Soviet Union, Great Britain and France to draw their attention to mounting militarist sentiments in Germany.

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The problem that was raised in the open letter of Czechoslovak scientists and cultural figures seems to have receded into the background amid the avalanche of developments that came in the wake of the German unification.

Some analysts seem to overlook the problem in their search for aspects in Germany's internal and foreign policy which promise to consolidate European security.

Indeed, the new Germany is playing a prominent role in economic and humanitarian aid to the Soviet Union. Moscow values its balanced approach to the withdrawal of Soviet troops from the territory of the former German Democratic Republic. Many trade and financial deals between business partners in the USSR and Germany appear most enticing and promise mutual benefit.

This arrangement stemming from sincere good will can displease only an incorrigible or excessively far-sighted pessimist. But should one really rebuke people, who lived through the tragedy of the Second World War, for their "excessive suspiciousness"?

Both countries, the Soviet Union and Federal Germany, their political and spiritual leaders, intellectuals, as well as many survivors of that lamentable war, are doing everything in their power to make people aware of dark pages in the book of recent history and never forget the lesson.

It should be remembered at least so as to avert the recurrence of old errors and build a future based on trust and international legal guarantees.

The letter of Czechoslovak intellectuals should be viewed in this light. They belong to a country destined to perpetual neighborhood with Germany, and they intuitively feel the danger of revival of revenge-seeking sentiments across the border.

Suffice it to recall the first days of Vaclav Havel's presidency and his initial desire to sort things out and renew Czechoslovak-German relations. Now the final stage has been reached in working out a bilateral treaty between Czechoslovakia and Germany.

Terse reports in the Western and Czechoslovak press make it difficult to draw conclusions as to what the final version of the treaty will be like before signing. Members of the Society 2001 are confident that the treaty will create the precedent for a return to the 1938 Munich agreement, under which the go-ahead was given to separating western territories from Czechoslovakia and eventually unleashing the Second World War.

Is the warning well-timed? Without running ahead of developments, it is possible to agree that Germany is obviously claiming the role of a European superpower for itself, prompted by the awareness of its economic might and the growing influence on the world politics.

It is impossible to overlook the growing activity in Germany of forces which have not given up their territorial claims to Czechoslovak and Polish lands and are now setting their sights on the weakened Baltic protrusion in the shape of Kaliningrad.

In this context the address of Czechoslovak intellectuals must not be ignored.

If we all want to remain optimistic, we should not put off until later the problems on the solution of which hinge the fate of peace and stability in our common European home.

Foreign Ministry Official on Yugoslav Events

OW0210173691 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1616 GMT 2 Oct 91

[By correspondents Alksandr Blokhin and Igor Porshnev; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" program; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The staff of the Yugoslav Armed Forces' supreme command has put forward an ultimatum to the Croatian leaders, warning that strikes will be delivered against Croatia's vital facilities if attacks against army garrisons and military facilities in the republic continue.

ON POLICY OF ULTIMATUMS AND STATEHOOD CRISIS

A senior Soviet Foreign Ministry official has said that the policy of ultimatums is fraught with the most disastrous consequences. It may frustrate peace talks, escalate violence and lead to a full-scale war between Croatia and Serbia. The Soviet diplomat has told "DP" [Diplomatic Panorama] that in his view the crisis of Yugoslav statehood has entered into the final phase, including the collapse of federal structures and irreversible disintegration. He sees no social force capable of coming out in favour of preserving Yugoslavia's integrity with any chances of success.

ON SERBIA'S POSITION AND CONFLICT'S BACKGROUND

The Soviet diplomat is particularly concerned about the line of action taken by the Serbian leaders. The Serbs have already seized more than a quarter of Croatia and seem to be going to annex these territories. Naturally, the Croats will not agree with this. The diplomat says there can be several likely scenarios of future events. He did not rule out the possibility of a ban on economic and other ties with Serbia if violence in Yugoslavia continues. The diplomat says that Serbia has as a matter of fact followed in Iraq's footsteps. Yet, he is certain that bloodshed in Yugoslavia could have been avoided. As early as in the summer of last year Slovenia and Croatia suggested forming a confederative union (an asymmetric federation). The proposal implied preserving one defence system, economic space and currency and a common foreign policy. However, the leaders of Serbia dismissed that idea saying they would like Yugoslavia to be united. The Soviet Foreign Ministry official believes that was the beginning of collapse. The chance was missed.

ON POSITIONS OF SLOVENIA AND CROATIA

The Soviet Foreign Ministry official says the deadlock over the situation in Yugoslavia is worsened by the fact that the parliaments of Slovenia and Croatia are to meet on October 8. The three-month moratorium on the independence of these republics is about to expire and when it does, both will declare their state independence. The diplomat said he doubted whether Lord Carrington would be able to persuade Slovenia and Croatia to prolong the moratorium on the independence acts. He believes one must be prepared to accept Slovenia and Croatia declaring their full state independence.

ON MOSCOW'S LIKELY RESPONSE TO INDEPENDENCE OF SLOVENIA AND CROATIA

Asked what Moscow's reaction will be in that case the diplomat said it could be varied. He believes that nobody in Europe is against Slovenia's independence. There is a consensus on the issue. Apparently, Slovenia's independence is a matter of days. It is most likely to be recognized by the neighbouring countries and the European Community. The diplomat agreed that in that case the Soviet Union would have no option other than to recognize the independence of Slovenia.

The independence of Croatia will be more difficult to recognize. The Soviet diplomat believes that the West will be in no hurry to declare its recognition of Croatia, because this could trigger "large-scale conventional warfare with a foreign factor involved." He believes that as soon as Croatia's independence is recognized Zagreb will ask the United Nations, the Western European Council, NATO and other organizations to send a peace-keeping force to Croatia. In that case the Soviet Union would prefer a UN contingent to be sent to Yugoslavia to disengage the warring factions.

ON USSR'S OFFICIAL POSITION

Asked about the absence of an official response from Moscow to the latest developments in Yugoslavia the diplomat said that Foreign Minister Boris Pankin explained the key elements of the Soviet position in his speech at the 46th UN General Assembly session on September 25. The diplomat recalled that on the same day an eight- point resolution on Yugoslavia was adopted. Among other things the resolution called for further efforts aimed at a peace settlement. The Soviet diplomat said that the USSR as one of the co-authors of the resolution and firmly supported it. This resolution explains in full Moscow's current position. After October 8, when the situation is changed, one can expect the Soviet Union to give an official explanation of its position, the more so since a committee of senior officials is to meet in Prague on October 10-11 to look into the situation in Yugoslavia.

ON ETHNIC CONFLICTS AND CSCE

The diplomat went on to say that ethnic conflicts are starting to pose the real threat to European security and stability. In this connection, the realization of nations' right to self-determination is likely to become one of the main guidelines of the CSCE's activities. As Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin pointed out speaking at the Moscow Human Rights Conference, while building a "common European house" the superiority of international laws over national ones should be recognized not only in words, but also in deed.

ON FATE OF SOVIET JOURNALISTS

Speaking about the missing Soviet TV reporters Viktor Nogin and Gennadiy Kurinnoy, the diplomat said that a delegation of the RSFSR State Committee on emergency situations is currently visiting Yugoslavia. Backed by the International Red Cross and similar organizations of Yugoslavia and the USSR they are trying to find out what happened to the journalists. They are to complete the investigation by October 6. "Hope dies last. Let's hope for the better", the diplomat said.

Romanian Senator Says IAN Funded Coup Attempt

PM0310093091 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Oct 91 Union Edition p 7

[By correspondent V. Volodin: "Miner's Ax Placed in 'Hand of Moscow.' Romanian Senator's Insinuations"]

[Text] Bucharest—A joint session of both chambers of the Romanian Parliament has been held in Bucharest, at which reports on the tragic events of the miners' black week were submitted for the attention of senators and deputies. The speech by Gelu Voican Voiculescu, senator for the ruling FSN [National Salvation Front], who organized a hasty trial in the past—the reprisal against Ceausescu—resounded like the explosion of a miners' TNT blasting charge.

The senator declared that this summer certain forces became active in Romania that had set the task of overthrowing the democratic regime. They were headed by Cazacov, a former state security colonel. The object of their attacks, according to G.V. Voiculescu, was the "group of revolutionaries" headed by P. Roman, the country's prime minister.

"Col. Cazacov set up a Soviet-Romanian export-import firm with money received directly from Moscow. Having spread a clandestine network over the entire country, he spearheaded attacks on the person of the prime minister, his cabinet, and the program of reforms. Numerous illegal centers systematically compromised the leaders of the December revolution. On Cazacov's orders, former 'Securitate' officers infiltrated the newspapers GREATER ROMANIA [ROMANIA MARE] and EUROPA, which under their influence became veritable centers of propaganda," the FSN senator charged.

Referring to some documents allegedly discovered in the archive of the late Boris Pugo, G. Voican Voiculescu maintains that a direct link existed between the Moscow putschists and Romanian conspirators and that the coup, which was begun in Moscow 19 August, was to have been taken up in Bucharest. He said that a mass worker action had been planned for that time, during which special "death squads" were to have eliminated everyone featured on a "blacklist." The entire clandestine network was funded by... IAN. A plan to bring miners to Bucharest was also carried out, it is said, using the Soviet news agency's funds.

Speaking in parliament, the FSN senator cited a whole list of names of generals and officers who, according to him, directed the miners' recent actions in Bucharest and sent special shock teams of miners to the Cotroceni Palace to force President I. Iliescu to resign.

To judge by the restrained reaction of the general prosecutor, the interior minister, and the security service chairman, who declared that the senator had assumed a tremendous responsibility, the detective story expounded by G.V. Voiculescu did not make any special impression on them. The tale of Romanian conspirators building intrigues "with money from the Soviet IAN agency" struck me as a clumsy attempt to place the miner's ax into "the hand of Moscow."

Meanwhile, Bucharest television had prepared a surprise for the luckless senator—an interview with Romanian citizen Gheorghe Cazacov. Answering a journalist's questions, this elderly man declared that he had never been a "Securitate" officer and knew no one either on the newspaper EUROPA or in the Socialist Labor Party. As regards the FSN senator's speech in parliament, G. Cazacov said: "Where did Voiculescu get all that from? We will bring an action against him tomorrow. Let the general prosecutor and the Bucharest Tribunal have their say now..."

V. Samoshkin, head of IAN's Bucharest correspondents' center, has, for his part, issued an official denial in the Romanian press of any complicity by the agency in the story expounded by the senator.

KGB Denies Involvement

OW0210201891 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1530 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] USSR KGB's public relations centre has issued an official statement denying as "untrue to facts" reports in the Romanian press on an involvement of Soviet secret services in attempts to organize a coup-d'etat in that country. "The USSR State Security Committee has nothing to do with the events in Romania," goes the statement.

The Romanian press has alleged, among other things, that during a search in the home of the former Soviet Interior Minister Pugo documents were found intimating the KGB was involved in the Romanian events.

Romania 'Ready' for Unification With Moldova

PM0210120391 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Sep 91 Union Edition p 4

[By correspondent V. Volodin: "Romania Ready for Unification..."]

[Text] Bucharest—"Romania is ready for unification with the Republic of Moldova," Prime Minister P. Roman said.

Quoting this statement, made during an interview with Austrian mass media, ROMANIA LIBERA noted that, in P. Roman's opinion, the future of Moldova's unification with Romania depends on Kishinev's willingness alone. "If the Moldavian people press for unification, the Romanian Government will not stand in the way," the newspaper writes.

As for the future of the republic's non-Moldavian population, and the Russians in particular, P. Roman reckons that they will be told to go back where they came from. The Romanian premier thinks that Moldova's Russian population wase brought there over the last 10-20 years and do not regard the republic as their home.

West Europe

Gorbachev Greetings to German People on Unity Day

LD0210165191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1512 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow, 2 Oct (TASS)—USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev has sent a telegram to FRG Federal President Richard von Weizsacker and Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl. The text of the telegram follows:

Esteemed Mr. Federal President! Esteemed Mr. Federal Chancellor! I send you and all the German people my cordial greetings on the occasion of the first anniversary of German unity.

A great and crucial event in the modern history of the German nation has taken place. This can now be claimed with full confidence. It is a landmark in the history of Europe and the entire world community.

German unity is a major event in the process of the profound changes in the world, which are connected with the new thinking and new values which more noticeably determine world politics. Hopes are being justified that a united Germany has been called upon to play a prominent positive role in the affairs of Europe and the world, which is worthy of the best traditions and characteristics of the German people.

In this context, I particularly wish to note the new quality of relations between our countries. They are developing precisely as we expected they would a year ago and contain vast potential for progress and peace. This is confirmed by the energetic support shown by the leaders and citizens of Germany for our democratic forces and our reforms during the transition to new forms of life, a transition which is difficult but which is of historic importance, not only for us.

The reconciliation which has taken place fosters our belief that Germany will be a good, reliable, and friendly partner for the new union and for the sovereign republics which are part of it.

Siemens Considering Defense Conversion Projects

OW0210010991 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2300 GMT 1 Oct 91

[From the "Soviet Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Siemens AG, a German electronics giant that, says board member Dr Volker Jung, has a stake in expanding its operation on the Soviet market, will consider a number of conversion projects proposed by chief executives at a number of Soviet defense factories specifically, these projects include electrical engineering, energy, and communications.

Siemens has three joint ventures [jv] in the Soviet Union that produce 1 bn rbs [billion rubles] worth of output annually and plans to establish a few more jvs.

The concern does not plan setting up any branches in the USSR for now, but they are not ruled out either "following corresponding political and economic changes" in the USSR.

At present Siemens has offices in Moscow, St Petersburg and Kiev. It may also open offices in Donbass, the Ukraine, Kuzbass, southern West Siberia, and Sverdlovsk, the Urals.

Gorbachev Accepts Invitation To Visit Austria

AU0210132291 Vienna DER STANDARD in German 2 Oct 91 p 3

[APA report: "Trade Agreement Between Austria and Russia"]

[Excerpt] Moscow—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has accepted an invitation to visit Austria. A date has not yet been fixed. A spokesman for Chancellor Franz Vranitzky said in Moscow on 1 October that the chancellor extended an invitation from President Kurt Waldheim, which Gorbachev accepted with thanks. [passage omitted]

Shaposhnikov Meets With Austrian Counterpart

LD0310130591 Moscow TASS in English 1239 GMT 3 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow October 3 TASS—Air Force Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, Soviet defence minister, met his Austrian counterpart Werner Fasslabend here today. He is visiting the USSR as a member of the government delegaton.

The ministers discussed, among other things, the recent initiative of President Bush on the reduction of nuclear weapons, the development of disarmament talks and the deepening of Soviet-Austrian military contacts.

The meeting was attended by Austrian Ambassador to the USSR Friedrich Bauer. It was held in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

Narcotics Seized in USSR-West Europe Operation

LD0310082191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1235 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow, 2 Oct (TASS)—The operation "Carousel" has been successfully completed as a result of joint measures carried out by the Customs Committee of the USSR, the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the USSR Committee for State Security in collaboration with customs and law enforcement bodies of the FRG, the Netherlands, and Belgium. The task was to detect and stop the smuggling of a major consignment of drugs from Afghanistan to Western Europe via the USSR, undertaken by the international drugs mafia. The press service of the USSR Customs Committee has reported that three tonnes of marijuana have been taken out of illegal circulation as a result of the operation.

The drugs were discovered by the customs in Riga, in two container loads of nuts being forwarded to a firm in Cologne, in the German Federal Republic, via the territory of the USSR, Belgium, and the Netherlands. A decision to make a joint controlled delivery was make in order to cut the channel of illegal international drugs turnover, and to expose all participants in the smuggling operation.

After the load had reached the port of Rotterdam the criminals made an attempt to take out the "cargo" in small lots. Ten people were arrested by the competent bodies of the Netherlands.

The success of the operation was made possible thanks to close cooperation between Soviet, Belgian, Dutch, and German customs and other law enforcement bodies.

Latin America & Caribbean

Havana Talks on Brigade Withdrawal Reviewed

PM0210155391 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 26 Sep 91 p 3

[By TASS correspondent S. Sereda for KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA: "We Will Not Throw Money Into the Caribbean Waves. How the Fate of the Soviet Training Brigade Is Being Resolved in Cuba"]

[Text] Havana—Last weekend an unprecedented event occurred in the history of the Soviet training brigade in Cuba: Its billets were visited for the first time not by a marshal, not even by a general, but by a high-ranking representative of the Soviet foreign policy department. Having arrived in Cuba to hold consultations on the imminent withdrawal of the brigade, Valeriy Nikolayenko, deputy minister of foreign affairs, evidently deemed it necessary to familiarize himself more closely with the "subject of the talks."

For three days the telephones in the Havana office of TASS were "overheating." Our alarmed journalist colleagues needed some kind of information connected with the first visit by a USSR Foreign Ministry representative following the public announcement of the withdrawal of the training brigade. It is easy to explain these calls: The Cuban press kept silent abut Valeriy Nikolayenko's arrival, and the consultations themselves took place in camera with no interim briefings. There was nothing to do but wait for the departure of the Soviet representative.

Openly admitting that the Havana consultations may indeed have been frank but also very complex, Nikolayenko stressed that the main result of his discussions with Alcibiades Hidalgo, Cuban first vice foreign minister, was making the Cuban side understand the motives guiding the Soviet leadership in deciding to withdraw the training brigade. Essentially, the Soviet proposal is aimed at reducing tension around Cuba and flows with the current of the positive development of world processes. The specific results of the consultations are of a purely businesslike nature rather than a sensational one: The sides agreed to start talks in the near future "on the concrete political aspects of the phased withdrawal of troops."

In adopting the decision to withdrawal the brigade, the Soviet leadership has made an invaluable contribution to our diplomats' long-standing efforts to normalize relations between the United States and Cuba, which have been clouded by confrontation for over 30 years. It was not by accident that Valeriy Nikolayenko himself made his previous visits to Cuba along the New York-Havana route. After concluding the present consultations, he left for America, where talks with Bernard Aronson, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, awaited him—the same Aronson who in the past few months has not tired of repeating that the United States has no aggressive intentions toward Cuba.

He may repeat this as much as he likes, but apparently his assurances are making the opposite impression on the Cuban leadership. Since January 1959 the United States has piled up such a mountain of mistakes in its relations with Cuba that Cuba has formed the following firm opinion of its northern neighbor: "The Yanks are not to be trusted at all. Whatever happens, we must not make any concessions to them in anything. Give an American your finger and he will grab your arm up to your elbow."

This thesis can be clearly outlined in a note from the Cuban Foreign Ministry published in GRANMA the day after the Soviet representative's departure to New York. It says notably that "The only suitable thing in these circumstances is the need for the Soviet proposal to be accompanied by talks on ending the military presence at the naval base in Guantanamo that the United States is continuing to pursue against the will of our people."

In other words, it is not hard to withdraw a brigade; it is more difficult to use it as an equivalent item in this

peculiar barter trade. Of course, it would be tempting to "swap" a brigade for a base that the United States has maintained for almost a century, sending Cuba a check every month for the purely symbolic sum of its "rent." Equally methodically, Cuba refuses to accept it. But, in my opinion, you have to have the courage to look the truth in the eye: By withdrawing from Cuba, Washington would demonstrate a totally uncharacteristic will in its political thinking in the international arena. Of course, one would like to believe that the White House will agree to the further "unfreezing" of its relations with Cuba, but the question is: How far is it prepared to move down this path?

And meanwhile our military in Havana are already discussing, over bottles of good Cuban beer, where they can get the plywood to enable them to pack up their modest belongings. Where they can get the nails to make boxes from this plywood. Where will they get rum to keep themselves warm in the cold Russian winter after the eternal Cuban summer? And what to take with them in the face of the total scarcity of everything here?

Cuba Wants Link With U.S. Base

PM0210101891 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Sep 91 Single Edition p 3

[By correspondent A. Moiseyev: "'Zero Option' for Cuba"]

[Text] Havana, 25 Sep—USSR Deputy Foreign Minister V.D. Nikolayenko has just concluded a two-day visit to Havana. Our diplomat conducted preliminary consultations with A. Hidalgo, Cuban first deputy minister of foreign affairs, as well as with C. Aldana, member of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee Secretariat. V. Nikolayenko then flew out to New York, where he will continue the exchange of opinions with representatives of the U.S. Government.

But what did they manage to discuss in Havana? Judging by the words of the Soviet diplomat himself, the meetings with his Cuban partners were difficult, although they took place in a very frank atmosphere and concluded with positive results. All in all the sides came to a mutual understanding concerning motives for and the necessity of withdrawing the military brigade from the island.

The only difference that still remains in their stances is, in my opinion, that the Cuban leadership insists on the strict linkage of our initiative's implementation with the removal from the republic's territory of the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo. In other words, Havana is insistently proposing something like a "zero option." But the Soviet Union's standpoint in this question is fairly flexible and aimed at strengthening trust between the states. As Valeriy Nikolayenko told journalists here, the initiative for the stage-by-stage withdrawal of the brigade is aimed at creating conditions favoring a reduction in tension surrounding Cuba.

The Soviet and Cuban sides agreed to hold talks, this time on at a higher level, on practical steps to withdraw the brigade in the near future, possibly immediately after the Fourth PCC Congress, which opens 10 October.

Political & Social

Consultative Council Discusses Union Treaty

LD0210215191 Moscow TASS in English 2128 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow October 2 TASS—The Soviet Political Consultative Council chaired by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on Wednesday discussed prospects for signing a new treaty on the union of sovereign states and an economic agreement.

An amended draft treaty has been submitted to the Soviet State Council for discussion.

The political council focused on urgent measures to improve food supplies in autumn and winter and social protection of lower-income citizens.

Participants mapped out specific measures to normalise food supplies in the country, including by removing all hurdles in agriculture.

The council also discussed the political situation in some conflict-torn Soviet areas. Gorbachev instructed Anatoliy Sobchak and Yevgeniy Velikhov to visit Tajikistan to gather objective and detailed information and find ways to normalise the situation in the republic.

Yavlinskiy Appointed to Council

LD0210121191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1147 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Excerpts] Moscow, 2 Oct (TASS)—USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev today made the well known Soviet economist Grigoriy Yavlinskiy a member of the Political Consultative Council under the USSR president. [passage omitted]

TASS Reports Primakov News Conference

LD0210185191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1727 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Report on Yevgeniy Primakov's "first news conference in his capacity as leader of the Soviet foreign intelligence service" in Moscow on 2 October; by TASS diplomatic correspondents Viktor Bezbrezhniy, Rostislav Gertsev, Sergey Petukhov, and Vasiliy Titov]

[Text] Moscow, 2 Oct (TASS)—Replying to a question from our correspondent about the extent to which the appointment of an academician to the post of chief of the foreign intelligence service is natural, Yevgeniy Primakov stated: "The intelligence service is a large organism which should increasingly use analytical methods, synthesize and analyze information, and make predictions on its basis. In this sense intelligence work is a scientific activity. I, therefore, do not believe that my appointment contradicts the tendencies which can be discerned within the intelligence service today and which will develop within it. Furthermore, these tendencies are not unique to our intelligence service; they also are determining the direction of the development of intelligence work in other countries."

Academician Primakov said that he plans to introduce objectivity of information—"which is a criterion for success"—into the work of the foreign intelligence service, as well as a comradely democratic environment. He also intends "to support the tendency to adopt a protective attitude toward those working within the intelligence service." He noted that he is a supporter of a great deal of openness in the intelligence service where possible, "taking into account the specifics of the matter." On a related issue, he noted that foreign experience—including the experience of the Americans—is instructive, as in the case when the analytical work of the intelligence service is openly distributed in the world and the most highly qualified specialists from civilian installations are consulted. "Clearly, we need to act in a similar fashion," he noted.

In connection with his appointment, Yevgeniy Primakov said that he had ended his membership in the Communist Party and did not intend to join any party structures while in his new post.

In the opinion of the chief of Soviet foreign intelligence, "close coordination" can be counted on in relations with the republican intelligence structures that are in the process of forming. "We shall be working together," Yevgeniy Primakov said, "otherwise there is no possibility of making progress."

According to Primakov, the detachment of the intelligence service from the KGB into a separate organization "is a foregone conclusion and will take place in the near future." Assessing the work of the organization in the past, he said: "As a rule, the intelligence service was on the mark and provided a sufficient quantity of material to enable one to get an objective idea of the processes taking place in the world."

Asked whether Soviet intelligence was prepared to submit to democratic control from parliament, Yevgeniy Primakov replied: "I can give a quite categorical 'yes,' but only if it is in accordance with the regulations existing in all the parliaments of the world."

I do not expect any escalation in defections or desertions by employees of the Soviet intelligence service, Yevgeniy Primakov, the new head of the Soviet foreign intelligence service, stated in answering correspondents' questions. I am sure, he noted, that the personnel in the collective of the intelligence service are mainly people devoted to their cause and their people.

Yevgeniy Primakov noted the necessity of preserving the intellectual potential of the intelligence service. To achieve this, he said, it is necessary to encourage further the professionalism of the employees of this organization in order to consolidate them in the structures of the intelligence service.

Speaking about "cover" provided for intelligence service employees in various state establishments, Yevgeniy Primakov stated that "cover" for intelligence officers is a necessary and universal factor in all the intelligence services of the world.

I believe, he said, that we shall find a common language with USSR Foreign Minister Boris Pankin, and the heads of the other organizations in dealing with this problem. In the opinion of Yevgeniy Primakov, a spy should not use the journalistic profession as cover. A journalist, he said, should be totally objective and should not belong to any state structures. In my capacity as the head of intelligence, Yevgeniy Primakov stated, I will try to implement this position. Yevgeniy Primakov spoke highly of the professional qualities of Leonid Shebarshin, the previous head of intelligence, who will be providing assistance to the new chief in meetings and consultations. Then, Yevgeniy Primakov noted, the best possible decision can be made on involving Shebarshin in intelligence work.

Primakov Says Agent Network To Continue Working

LD0310002191 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2122 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Interview with Yevgeniy Primakov, newly appointed head of the Soviet foreign intelligence service, by reporter A. Pishayev in the "Vesti" offices on 2 October; from the "Vesti" newscast—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Pishayev] Previously our foreign intelligence recruited its spies abroad from among sympathizers of the communist regime. Will the foreign intelligence services be deideologized now?

[Primakov] Well, life has deideologized it already. The work with the agent network will probably continue.

[Pishayev] Until now we were under scrutiny when we went abroad.

[Primakov] The intelligence service should not spy on Soviet people abroad. This is not its function. This simply compromises it. If such a practice exists, it will be stopped.

[Pishayev] At which of your previous posts did you acquire most of the qualities you need to demonstrate now as head of our country's foreign intelligence?

[Primakov] Probably as the director of the Institute of the World Economy and International Relations. I was involved a great deal with situational analysis, with evaluating situations.

[Pishayev] How will your relations develop if the president leaves the political stage?

[Primakov] I was always working on the Gorbachev team, but this certainly does not mean that I believe that intelligence should work for a single person, even if it is the president. Intelligence is a mechanism that, on the whole, protects the state interests; therefore, it is difficult to answer what I will do if Gorbachev leaves. I would very much not like him to leave, because I believe that he is a consolidating figure. To have Gorbachev as head of state is the optimal solution.

Article Examines Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's Positions

PM0210122591 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Sep 91 Union Edition p 5

[Article by Yuriy Sokolov: "Order of Vladimir Volfovich, Third Class"]

[Text] There is a great interest in names and appellations today in our society, which has lost its own name. And although this sometimes seems like a waste of time, it is nonetheless seen as a step toward liberalization.

In this regard, the name "USSR Liberal Democratic Party" [LDP] is undoubtedly attractive.

What is attractive is the word **liberal**. According to Vladimir Dal's dictionary, a liberal is a **"political freethinker who thinks or acts freely; in general, a person desiring freedom of the people and self-government."**

And when you read the collection of LDP documents and materials, you can sense a similarity to Dal and you are unconditionally happy that **"the LDP's most important task is to secure a proper living standard for all members of society."** However, you may wonder: Has there ever been any party or order anywhere which declared that its most important task was to make sure that everyone goes down the tubes?...

The LDP leader—or, more euphoniously, the head of the order, Vladimir Volfovich Zhirinovskiy, who came third in the contest to lead the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] and so could be called Vladimir Third Class—is an extremely frank person: He says what he thinks. That's nice. Russians have never liked cunning people—this is not Greece, ladies and gentlemen. And when Vladimir Volfovich states that he would have defended the czar in February 1917, the Winter Palace in October of that year, and the Kremlin in August '91, then you sincerely believe him. All the more so because the first two positions cannot be checked, and Mr. Zhirinovskiy was deprived of an opportunity to take up the third position because there was no attack on the Kremlin—everyone had gone to defend the White House from a Kremlin attack.

"Yes, at 0900 hours on the 19th legitimate power resided with the people in the Kremlin," Zhirinovskiy stated at a press conference, "that is why we supported the program... I would emphasize—the program! When the president returned, we changed our position and supported the legitimate authority of the president, who had returned to his duties. But I was very pleased with the events of 19-21 August, I am grateful to the democrats for taking on the dirtiest job of freeing us from our main competitor in the political struggle—the ruling party."

We should print and quote frank people more often, much more often!... After all, nobody is better placed than Zhirinovskiy himself to explain his program or to map out the complex ins and outs of his ideas and feelings. Issue No. 18 of the government weekly ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI provides an excellent example of this: **"'This spring there will be elections for USSR president, and everyone will vote for me,' Vladimir Zhirinovskiy said in an interview with the Lithuanian newspaper RESPUBLIKA. The LDP leader went on to say: 'The Baltics are Russian land. I will destroy you. I will start burying nuclear waste in the border zone of Smolensk Oblast, the Semipalatinsk garrison will be transferred to your area. You Lithuanians will die of disease and radiation. I will remove the Russians and the Poles. I am God, I am a tyrant! There will be no Lithuanians, Latvians, or Estonians in the Baltics. I will act like Hitler in 1932. The champagne you are quaffing today is your own wake.'"**

Analyzing this extract, I am nonetheless inclined to think that Vladimir Volfovich is simply joking in a liberal democratic way—"in the future they'll make me a field marshal straightaway."

Again we should not take seriously the threat to "start burying nuclear waste." I simply cannot imagine Zhirinovskiy sweating away on his nuclear dump. It is dangerous, it could have side effects! You are a man in your prime attracting the attentions of the ladies, and suddenly this happens!... It cannot be allowed. Either call in volunteers to do the job, or let the Balts themselves do the digging.

And then, how many times have people been known to state "I am God!... I am a tyrant!... I am Napoleon!..." You just call out the men in white coats, administer a sedative, and that's it. It transpires that he is not really God, just an overworked senior economist and a very nice guy.

Of course, if I am wrong and Zhirinovskiy is not joking, then things will be tough for the Baltics if he becomes president. Vladimir Volfovich has explained everything very clearly: He was born in 1946, when there were 16 republics in the country. Therefore, he would restore the 1977 Soviet Constitution, under which there were no sovereign formations, and no need for any. He would return all these republics to the way they originally were. Lithuania?... Well, perhaps with the exception of Lithuania—the people there very much want to break away and should not be restrained by force. But you would have to keep the 1940 borders, gentlemen! Celebrate that if you like!...

There will be no tanks or machine guns, the contender noted, but there will be severe economic sanctions. It is mainly Russians who work at all Estonia's plants, and solely Russians at the ports and in air transport... Estonians may be officials or customs officers... They may work in bars, saunas, or as salespersons... If the Russians were withdrawn everything would grind to a halt!

God knows!... He may be right—could they really be withdrawn?... Just ordered out: Ivanov, Petrov, Sidorov, Morkovkin, Katalkin! And all the Jews from the symphony orchestra—with their personal effects and instruments too!

How could anyone not want to leave Estonia and move to the wonderful apartments Zhirinovskiy will have prepared for them?...

Something else Vladimir Volfovich stresses is the "daylight" (that is, bright, clear, and open) creed of the LDP, unlike the Democratic, Communist, and other parties, which are favorites of the moon and operate primarily "by night"—that is, in an atmosphere of secrecy and darkness. Normal people, he believes, simply do not take to the streets at night with Molotov cocktails. Normal people do not erect barricades or torch trolleybuses. Normal people go to bed at 11 o'clock, switch on their radios in the morning, hear which authorities are in power in their city, and immediately start supporting them.

Again, we cannot fail to agree with Zhirinovskiy—of course, these were not normal people, they were people of a higher caliber.

Would normal people clamber over gun turrets?... Normal people would put their hands up.

Would normal people climb Everest?... They would buy color slides of the Himalayas and, feet up, watch them at home until 11 o'clock.

Would normal people, having made a will and left their cellos behind, rush from the Tuileries in Paris to Krasnopresnenskaya Embankment in Moscow on 19 August?... Normal people would rush to Sheremetyevo-2 and fly to Paris.

The theme of normal and abnormal, healthy and sick people is always very topical. A correspondent from the "Ekho Moskvy" radio station reminded Zhirinovskiy of his statement that one in every three people in our society is sick or unfulfilled because of bad food, a difficult childhood, alcoholic parents, drugs, and so on. Does this one in three proportion extend to LDP members, the correspondent asked.

Yes, in general—that was, once again, the leader's very frank answer.

I listened to him closely and noted that he is telling the truth!

Alksnis Sponsors New 'National Prosperity Party'

LD0210110991 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0000 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Yet another political party is being created in this country. It may be called a National Prosperity Party. Among its sponsors is Valeriy (Skulatov), a co-author of a program of actions to confiscate the cooperative farms'

property. He said that the party's basic economic demand will be to turn over immediately to Soviet citizens a certain share of the national wealth. He explained that each person is entitled to an investment check for a certain sum. Among the other sponsors are such noted lawmakers as Viktor Alksnis, Sergey (Baburin), and Vladimir Isakov.

Mystery of Gold Shipments Abroad Pondered

PM0210104191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Sep 91 Union Edition p 7

[article by E. Guseynov: "Specter of Russian Gold Hovers Over World's Major Exchanges"]

[Text] "It seems as though we are scared of some invisible specter," was how a leading Tokyo Stock Exchange specialist described the current state of the gold market.

THE GUARDIAN newspaper's 11 September report on the possible secret shipment of a sizeable quantity of gold out of the USSR in the past few months is continuing to worry the world's largest exchanges. Whereas it took New York a week to reassure businessmen and get gold trading back to normal, panic still reigns on the Tokyo Industrial Exchange, which deals in precious metals. The figures on the shipment of a huge quantity of gold out of the USSR on the eve of the putsch are considered absolutely accurate here.

People in Tokyo are expressing different views about who carried out this act—the putschists or one of the union republics, which is preparing to dump the gold on the market. There is no agreed opinion either about the amount of gold shipped (I would recall that THE GUARDIAN reported approximately 300 tonnes). However, it seems that everybody agrees on one point: There is a lack of confidence in Soviet gold-trading policy. Yet our country controls 12.4 percent of world output of the metal. Quite apart from the latest sensational reports, traders today are totally ignorant about how gold sales will be conducted and by whom in the context of the Soviet Union's disintegration.

As a result, the situation on the Tokyo market is such that the appearance in the market of even a small amount of Soviet gold could cause the already record low prices for the metal to collapse.

There is an explanation for the bad Japanese reaction to the rumor of gold being shipped out of the USSR. Even before the August putsch, people here were very reserved and pessimistic about the growing and increasingly uncontrolled sales of the precious metal carried out by Soviet foreign trade officials. The Japanese have also been keeping a particularly close eye on the reduction in Soviet gold reserves and the decline in the amount of gold mined in the USSR over the past few years.

Another reason for the particular caution shown by the Japanese is that Japan is one of the world's largest gold importers and consumers. Suffice it to say that 465.5 tonnes of gold was sold in Japan in 1989 for jewelry alone, not to mention the demand for the precious metal from the electronics industry and various investors. And this was in the context of gold production in the West standing at 1,600 tonnes that year, with another 310 tonnes being supplied to the market by the USSR.

We should also mention that in any case there is a glut of gold on the world market. Supply of the precious metal sharply outstrips demand. Last year the difference was 220-320 tonnes. Under these circumstances it is extremely difficult to maintain stable prices. And then there are the uncontrolled shipments of Soviet gold.

The world has already worked out that in the next few months we will be forced to increase our gold shipments. Given the reduction in oil supplies to the foreign market and the drop in arms exports, the USSR was bound, in Western specialists' eyes, to engage in gold dumping. Western analysts largely blamed the sharp drop in gold prices back in the summer of 1990—just before Iraq's invasion of Kuwait—on aggressive sales by our country. A year later, in June 1991, the markets heaved a sigh of relief on the news that the U.S. Administration was providing credit guarantees for our country to buy food from the United States. This meant that the Soviet Union would not have to sell gold to pay for its food imports. Now it is September 1991, and another scandal.

How accurate is THE GUARDIAN's information, which was the main cause of the continuing panic?

Personally, on the basis of the scraps of information which I have managed to glean from various private and official sources, I have no doubt that there was a massive shipment of gold out of the USSR. Although I would make one correction. This shipment did not take place at once—in one large consignment—but over the course of the past year and in different forms. The mysterious deals involving strange-quality gold, which were done back in the spring and summer of last year by Soviet foreign economic organizations, have already been covered by IZVESTIYA in issue No. 215 for 9/10 September 1991. Moreover, Western experts reckon that in the past five years the USSR has shipped around 200 tonnes of gold to different communist regimes. It is hardly possible to check where they ended up. Nor should we forget that even today gold mining in the USSR is conducted by organizations of different status. Not just the totally civilian "Glavalmazzoloto" Trust, but also the defense industry's secret Ministry of Medium Machine Building. The KGB, which—in the shape of its predecessors, the NKVD [People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs] and the MGB [Ministry of State Security]—mined most of the gold on the USSR's territory for decades, also confiscated a large amount of gold through its own channels. So in our country a great deal of gold in various forms was at the disposal of the former power structures—from the party to the KGB—and could be used by entirely unusual institutions. This, incidentally, is demonstrated by the example of the "Stasi"—the former East German

special service—which made wide use of gold in its secret operations. Where are the Tsarist Russian gold reserves, 90 percent of which comprised gold coin rather than the now-traditional ingots? Where is the gold which has been tirelessly confiscated from the population over the 74 years of Soviet power? Where are the tonnes of church gold confiscated in the 1920s? Where are the Romanian gold reserves which were twice shipped to the USSR—in 1916 and 1945—and not returned? Where are the two carloads of gold shipped by Frunze from the Bukhara emir's treasury? Where is the Azerbaijani, Armenian, and Georgian gold seized in 1920-1921? So far there has been no answer to any of these questions.

One aspect of the story is beyond doubt. The loose ends in THE GUARDIAN's mysterious gold report are to be found here in the USSR. If we do not know everything about our gold, it is a sign that even after the August events the powers that be have secrets to keep from the people. It is considerably harder to conceal those secrets abroad, where there are specialized firms which hunt down the treasures of various dictators—Husayn, Marcos, and Duvalier. I think that their help will be more useful than a wearying battle with our own guardians of state secrets.

Lubyanka Documents on Wallenberg Found

92US0011A Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 28 Sep 91 p 5

[Article by A. Vitkovskiy, USSR KGB Public Relations Center: "All the Traces Were Hidden by Dust... How the R. Wallenberg Documents Were Found in the Lubyanka Basement"]

[Text] It seems that the first international act of the new KGB chairman was to meet with Mr. Berner, Swedish ambassador in the USSR, and with R. Wallenberg's brother, Professor Guy von Dardel, who all these years had been searching for some trace of his brother. During the meeting, the Swedish side was given five documents from the KGB archives dealing with the Swedish diplomat. The documents were made public on Bakatin's orders right after he became USSR KGB chairman.

"I heard about the mystery of the Swedish diplomat, who was arrested by the NKVD [People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs] in 1945 and disappeared in the Lubyanka prison almost without a trace, when I was still the minister of internal affairs," said Vadim Bakatin. "At that time Wallenberg's relatives and members of the international committee were given the opportunity to visit the Vladimirskaya prison and look into its archives. I think that now we should continue the search together with all the interested parties and try to achieve final clarification of the issue."

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA has written many times about the life and death of R. Wallenberg, an outstanding humanitarian who during the war saved people in Budapest from the fascist genocide. For that reason I will only talk about what we in the USSR KGB managed to do in a few recent days, literally.

As you know, almost two years ago former KGB top officials returned to the Swedish side some of Wallenberg's personal belongings—money that was confiscated from him during his arrest, his notebook, and also some documents dealing with his arrest and detention in the Lubyanka prison. After that act, investigators looking for traces of him and journalists started raising a serious question: In accordance with NKVD and Ministry of State Security methods, all belongings and documents that were found were to be kept in several different locations. How could it happen, they asked, that everything was found at once? If it was, their logic ran, should they think that no search for Wallenberg was really going on? Or that KGB top officials were well aware of the diplomat's fate but, for reasons of their own, would not allow the existing facts to be made public? These questions are truly serious.

Well, I was lucky to meet with the person who had made the sensational discovery two years ago. He has been working in the archives of the USSR KGB for almost 20 years. His main work is directed at the rehabilitation of victims of Stalinist repressions. Together with him I went to the basement of house No. 2 on Lubyanskaya Square.

It was a little corner room, with a barred window facing the inner courtyard and water pipes running along the ceiling. Its appearance resembled a storage room for either unclaimed evidence or obsolete clerical junk rather than an archive.

My companion told me that examining and sorting out the materials that were "heaped" around was a very important part of his work.

"It was on a similar September day, only two years ago, that the turn came for those files. I had to sort them out, and at the same time I had to replace the wooden shelving with a new metal one. I started with the top shelf. I was looking through one file after another and suddenly one of them yielded a package, the size of a school notebook and some three or four centimeters thick. It was a brown paper parcel, rather worn already; the flap, formerly glued tight, was open. Imagine my amazement when I shook out of the packet a gold powder-compact, made to look like a cigarette-case, money, notebooks, and documents in the name of Raoul Wallenberg. The name of the Swedish diplomat was already familiar to me because I had been getting inquiries about him. I reported my find to my bosses. This is, basically, the entire story. I am very happy, of course, that we have managed to find at least some trace of this man...

A very thorough search of the other shelves around brought no results..."

My companion asked me not to mention his name, and all my insistence was in vain. I am sorry about that. I am

sure that many people whose honorable name he had helped to restore (or relatives of such people) would want to shake his hand as a token of gratitude.

"Five documents given by us to the Swedish side," Major General Nikolay Stolyarov, deputy KGB chief, said at the last press conference, "make only indirect reference to the name of the detained diplomat. Not a single one of them disproves the fact of his death in the Lubyanka prison in 1947. But the search is going on, and if we find any new documents we will hand them over to all interested parties. At present, the Swedish side is compiling a list of mutual actions that are necessary to bring to final resolution all the issues dealing with Raoul Wallenberg's fate. At the same time I feel confident that the thread leading to the unraveling of the mystery of his life and death can be also found, beside the Lubyanka archives, in the archives at Langley and the U.S. Department of State, in the archives of special services, in the documents of financial and industrial companies in Germany, Hungary, Sweden, and other countries that witnessed the events of the war and the first postwar years. But whoever Raoul Wallenberg turns out to be—the agent of one, two, or even three intelligence services—the many thousands of human lives that he saved have made his name immortal for ever. It is the name of a true Human Being and Humanitarian.

TASS Reviews 3 Oct Central Press

LD0310081191 Moscow TASS in English 0657 GMT 3 Oct 91

["Press Review"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow October 3 TASS—Newspapers highlight today the results of the meeting of leaders of the sovereign republics in Alma-Ata, at which they discussed provisions of the economic agreement, and the launching of the Soyuz TM-13 spacecraft on Wednesday with an international crew on board.

PRAVDA correspondents write from the Kazakh capital: "Politicians who gathered in Alma-Ata did not discuss political aspects of the problem. It is worth recalling, however, that sound economy is the best policy. Kazakh President Nazarbaev, who organised the meeting, seems to have enhanced his political prestige."

A report from the Baykonur space-launch complex calls attention to the fact that for the first time ever the launching site was decked with three and not two national flags—those of the Soviet Union, Austria and Kazakhstan. It was not a formality, but a sign of recognition of merits of the Kazakh people, whose territory has been used for decades to launch spacecraft.

PRAVDA carries an interview with members of the association "In defence of the rights of communists" which is being created in Moscow. The newspaper writes that it is going to start its own "white paper" in which it will enter all cases of persecution of people for their political convictions.

SELSKAYA ZHIZN writes about the formation of agricultural business in the Novosibirsk region.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA carries an unsigned article, in violation of one of its main principles. The information was received from a group of staff members of the Soviet Foreign Ministry. It deals with the professional career of Kryuchkov jr. and with Shevardnadze's mistakes in the personnel policy.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA comments on the appointment of Yevgeniy Primakov head of the soviet intelligence service. A. Vasiliev, author of the commentary, believes that "Primakov's task now is to protect the personnel of the intelligence service from some ill-considered resolutions adopted sometimes in the Russian White House and the Kremlin."

Newspapers carry a TASS report about the conditions in which participants in the anti-state conspiracy are kept. According to TASS, those arrested under the state emergency committee case have not complained so far of being maltreated by their prison mates.

RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA carries an interview with Oleg Ozhereliev, assistant to the Soviet president. He tells about his economic stance and the economic situation in the country in general. "If the democratic forces that came to power again confine themselves to playing with the reorganisation of the management structures, as it is being done now, the developments of 1918 and 1920 will be repeated. This time, however, they will go together with inter- ethnic conflicts of such a scope that the Yugoslav disintegration will seem a trifle in comparison with them," he said.

PRAVDA carries a statement of the initiative group for rallying Russian left-wing forces of socialist orientation. According to the statement, "now it is possible to create a non-apparatus strong party of like-minded people, united by sound ideas, noble objectives and a feeling of comradeship. It will be a party of freedom, truth, high moral standards and justice."

PRAVDA publishes an article under the heading "baby-food campaign", which deals with the problems facing the industry. It is an interview with I.Kh. Dzhurabekov, first deputy chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers under the Uzbek president. He stresses that "the growing number of children with physical defects, especially a high level of the infant sick and mortality rate, make us pay special attention to this problem ... We hope to improve radically the supply of children of all ages with baby food."

TRUD carries an interview with Nikolay Yermakov, chairman of the Soviet customs committee, dealing with the transformation of the customs service, that will go together with the creation of sovereign states replacing the Soviet Union. He is sure that the task of the customs service should be to protect an individual and his interests, not to violate them.

Air Force Lieutenant General Vitaliy Pavlov, Army Aviation deputy chief, has contributed an interview to KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, which deals with problems facing Army aviation. He believes that "the root cause of the present situation is that Army aviation was first attached to the Ground Forces, then to the Air Force, but actually remained alien to both." General Pavlov stressed that there are 6,000 officers in the Army aviation, including 2,000 pilots, who have no flats for themselves and their families.

"Our public health service is still alive, but seriously ill," Professor Valentin Pokrovskiy, president of the Soviet Academy of Medical Sciences, said in an interview published by TRUD. He pointed out that "the financing of the medical science is absolutely insufficient."

TRUD writes about the experiment in Moscow with the privatisation of flats. According to the newspaper, at the moment there are more questions than answers connected with it.

General Merrill Antony McPeak, chief of staff of the U.S. Air Force, now on a visit in the USSR in accordance with a plan of military contacts between the USSR and the U.S., gave an interview to KRASNAYA ZVEZDA. He commented on some aspects of the President Bush initiative connected with the air force. The most important thing, he believes, is that they will take nuclear missiles off the planes and transport them to the places of stockpiling, which is a rather important step.

Economic

Twelve Republics Issue Alma-Ata Communique

LD0210203191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1830 GMT 2 Oct 91

[By TASS-KAZTAG correspondents Vladimir Akimov and Gennadiy Kulagin]

[Text] Alma-Ata, 2 Oct (TASS-KAZTAG)—Having fully renounced political and ideological pressure on each other, the leaders of 12 sovereign republics, who arrived in Alma-Ata at the invitation of N.A.Nazarbayev, president of the Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic, have reached an agreement without the center's participation on the ways and methods of rapdily setting up mutual economic cooperation. The heads of the delegations from Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and the Ukraine signed a joint communique on the results of the meeting.

The document notes that the participants succeeded in determining and agreeing on common approaches to ensure the 1991 fulfilment and the 1992 accelerated conclusion of interrepublican economic agreements and treaties (especially in the sphere of supplying foodstuffs and fuel and energy resources in the forthcoming winter period), and also on the fundamental principles for economic cooperation between sovereign states, interrepublican horizontal economic, scientific, technical and cultural links. The interrepublican economic agreements and treaties reached earlier have become the basis for the creation of a new economic environment.

Establishment of these relations is taking place in complex conditions. The economy of sovereign states is undergoing an acute crisis: the slump in production continues, the fulfilment of the commitments adopted for 1991 for supplying produce is not ensured, and the imbalance in money circulation, growing inflation and the drop in the standard of living of the population further complicate the already complex social situation in the republics.

The delay in organizing interrepublican and inter-economic ties for 1992 is producing special concern, the communique says. The conclusion of agreements for the delivery of produce, especially of fuel and energy resources and foodstuffs, is proceeding extremely unsatisfactorily, and this may turn into new, even more serious, difficulties in the forthcoming autumn-winter period.

The leaders of the delegations think that the only solution to the economic crisis that has gripped the country lies in the accelerated transition to market relations, the utmost development of enterprise, and the expansion of mutually beneficial ties in all directions. They unanimously favor the signing of a treaty on an economic community that will lay fundamentally new foundations for economic relations between sovereign states. It is also considered expedient during the transition period to maintain the economic links that have taken shape between the enterprises and organizations of the sovereign states, primarily as regards intersectoral and intrasectoral coproduction. It is equally important to conduct an agreed-upon policy on the movement of goods and services (including transportation, energy and information ones) through the territory of each republic that has joined the community.

To ensure the normal functioning of the economy of the sovereign states in the period of the formation of market relations, it is acknowledged as essential to conclude interstate, bilateral, and multilateral agreements guaranteeing deliveries of the most important types of raw materials, foodstuffs, goods, and the provision of services at agreed prices. The conducting of a coordinated price policy should also be ensured in the period of transition to free price formation, a policy which would establish appropriate price levels on an agreed list of goods and services.

In the interests of getting out of the crisis as quickly as possible and in order to limit and regulate the inflationary processes, it is of priority importance to have coordinated actions in the sphere of monetary and credit policy. In regard to the introduction of national currencies, this should be carried out without detriment to the monetary system of the future economic community.

The communique states that the participants in the meeting state with all responsibility that the sovereign states will guarantee the observation of human rights and will totally exclude discrimination against citizens on grounds of nationality or other grounds on matters of providing work, of wages and of other social guarantees.

A statement signed by the leaders of eight sovereign states—the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR], the Ukraine, Belarus, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan—says that the dominance of totalitarianism over many years and the disintegration of the former system of government have caused a serious economic crisis throughout the country and led to the exacerbation of social and interethnic relations. A way out of this situation was outlined in the interrepublican bilateral and multilateral economic agreements and treaties reached earlier, which initiated the formation by the sovereign states of an economic space based on rational economic ties. The positive process of the creation of a new economic environment, its legal and organizational foundations, and the development of commodity-money and market relations is under way.

But the signing of the interrepublican agreement should not be delayed indefinitely either, according to the leaders of the eight republics. Given that further delay as the new economic year approaches risks precipitating a complete collapse of the economy and the finance and credit system and a catastrophic decline in the standard of living of the population, they have decided to sign a multilateral treaty on an economic community among themselves by 15 October 1991. Since, under this formulation, the remaining sovereign states find themselves not "on board" this union, they have suggested to the leaders of these states that they assess their position once again from the point of view of actual realities and the vital interests of their peoples, and that they join the treaty.

The leaders of the RSFSR, the Ukraine, Belarus, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan expressed their profound belief in the desirability of the decision they had adopted, which in the present situation is a powerful means of stabilizing the socio-economic situation and the implementation of radical economic reforms.

Economic Details Cited

LD0210084391 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] The RUSSIAN INFORMATION AGENCY [RIA] reports that the Alma-Ata meeting participants signed a communique yesterday. The leaders of the delegations of 13 sovereign republics agreed on a common approach in carrying out interrepublican economic agreements in 1991 and speeding up their decision for 1992, primarily on food and fuel supplies, and also on the key principles of economic cooperation. The document notes that, in conditions of acute economic crisis, the only way out is the accelerated transition to market relations and all-around enterprise development. The participants advocate signing a treaty on forming an economic community which fundamentally lays new foundations for relations between sovereign states. RIA reports that it has been deemed expedient to sustain, for the transitional period, the economic ties that have developed between enterprises and organizations and to implement a coordinated policy for moving the republics' goods and services in order to create a market area. The republics anticipate concluding interrepublican agreements that will guarantee supplies of important raw materials, food, and services at agreed prices. The sides expressed readiness to implement a coordinated policy in the field of monetary and credit policy. The introduction of national currencies has to be carried out without harming the monetary system of the future economic community. The meeting's participants pledged to guarantee observance of human rights and to exclude totally any discrimination against citizens on ethnic or other grounds.

Yavlinskiy Interviewed on Alma-Ata Meeting

LD0310012591 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2122 GMT 2 Oct 91

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] As yesterday, today universal attention has been focused on Kazakhstan in connection with today's launch of an international space crew and, most important, in connection with the meeting of the leaders of sovereign republics in Alma-Ata, the results of which surpassed expectations.

Our special correspondent, Mikhail Ponomarev, has just returned from Alma-Ata. His report gives the details of the results of the meeting:

[Begin recording] [Ponomarev] As already reported, the heads of 12 Union republics, who arrived in Alma-Ata yesterday, today visited the Baykonur cosmodrome, where the launch of a Soviet-Austrian crew took place. The launch of the spacecraft and approval of the draft for a new economic agreement really exhausted the program for the meeting in Kazakhstan. However, unexpectedly, the representatives of some republics decided to avail themselves of the opportunity and continued their work. Their unscheduled talks lasted several hours. The results surpassed all expectations. Despite the officially announced date for the signing of the agreement being 15 October, three signatures appeared on this document today. The birth of a new economic community is thus registered. As of today, 2 October, Kazakhstan, Belarus [Belorussia] and Uzbekistan are members of the community. [video shows launch of space crew attended by Nazarbayev, Yavlinskiy, and republican leaders; leaders attending Alma-Ata meeting; Ponomarev interviewing Grigoriy Yavlinskiy aboard aircraft]

[Ponomarev] What is the direct philosophy of this new economic agreement?

[Yavlinskiy] Well, if one views the essence of the matter, the philosophy on which it has been based by its drafters is that the process of the birth of free and sovereign states—in this case, this applies to our republics—is naturally an historic process. The purpose of this treaty is to give this process a civilized form and make this process as safe as possible, while, at the same time, without delay, to start to tackle the urgent economic problems of extricating ourselves from the crisis, setting up a market economy, and firmly establishing private ownership so that this process is accompanied by a stabilization of the economy and an improvement in people's lives. That is the main essence. It was very important when we were elaborating this treaty that this treaty would in no way link the republics with a totalitarian system and deprive them of independence, but would tackle only those urgent tasks, without which life is at present becoming simply impossible.

[Ponomarev] As the author of this document, you worked directly in close contact with the president of Russia and the president of the Union. What is their attitude on this agreement?

[Yavlinskiy] This is indeed a question of fundamental importance. I want to say that the Union president set this issue for discussion within the State Council. He has constantly been emphasizing the need for the promptest drafting and signing of this document. As for Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin, he acquainted himself with the draft, studied it in great detail, and voiced a whole number of criticisms that were taken into account. In general, prior to Alma-Ata, he expressed himself in a very positive way. His parting words were very resolute and favorable. [end recording]

Our correspondent obtained that interview from Grigoriy Yavlinskiy a few hours ago aboard an aircraft returning to Moscow. Today we heard that Grigoriy Yavlinskiy has been appointed as another member of the Political Consultative Council under the USSR President.

Silayev Cited on Prospects of Economic Treaty

LD0210220991 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2025 GMT 2 Oct 91

[By TASS special correspondent Nikolay Zheleznov]

[Text] On Board a "TU-134" Aircraft, 2 Oct (TASS)—The treaty on an economic commonwealth of sovereign states that was initialed as a result of the meeting between the leaders of twelve republics in Alma-Ata is, in essence, "the only guarantee for halting the chaotic collapse of the country's economy." This is how Ivan Silayev, chairman of the interrepublican economic committee, has evaluated the main result of the meetings in Alma-Ata and at the Baykonur launch site. On the way from Baykonur to Moscow, he gave an interview to journalists who had covered that meeting.

The leader of the interrepublican economic committee singled out two main factors determining the success of the Alma-Ata forum for the republics. They are: the unique composition of those participating; and, as he put it, "the distance from the center." The very fact that the talks between leaders of the republics did not take place in Moscow, but on neutral soil, in Silayev's view, made the talks open and exceptionally constructive.

Today one more stereotype was broken as a result of the delegations from the republics spending the day at the launch site. Having acquainted themselves with the unique potential of the launch site, the presidents and premiers, instead of the traditional "we are not wealthy enough to," started saying: We are not so poor as to squander the wealth amassed by the whole country and fail to jointly maintain the launch site, which is experiencing financial difficulties.

Regarding the essence of the agreement on an economic community, its definitive draft is now being taken to Moscow. Ivan Silayev stated that it is essentially the brainchild of the committee for the operational management of the country's national economy. "The treaty contains all the basic articles of the program of my deputy, Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, which was proposed a year ago to the Ryzhkov government, but which it turned down." In order to make up for the lost year, we need not only combined efforts, but things need to be done on a common economic basis; and this was agreed by all the republican leaders taking part in the discussion, Ivan Silayev emphasized. He said that among the main "unifying factors" were agreements on matters where none had existed previously. It is first and foremost worth singling out an essential point in the Alma-Ata declaration: The way to the development of the economy of each republic and the community as a whole is possible only with "the introduction of categories of ownership, within the framework of the law, which will be in effect throughout the entire economic space."

One more important "rule of the game" is common to all in the conditions of the republics' transition to the market, I. Silayev stated; namely, equal conditions for the activities of entrepreneurs everywhere, regardless of their nationality. And such a "contentious and tough issue" as a single banking system gave way under the pressure of enthusiasm and energy generated at the Alma- Ata meeting. The draft treaty, in the words of the chairman of the interrepublican economic committee, will liberate the sovereign republics from the diktat of the "bank in the center" and will create conditions in which a collective body, coordinating the financial and credit activities of the member states of the economic community, will be able to function.

As to whether the treaty will limit the USSR president's opportunities to influence the course of economic reform, Ivan Silayev said that today it is more important for the president not to occupy himself with the details of the actual process of economic reform, but to use these

details for the all-round reinforcement of a political union of independent states.

Hesitations 'Threaten' Economic Union Treaty

PM0210152691 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Oct 91 Union Edition p 2

[Report by special correspondent I. Demchenko: "Political Reservations Threaten Economic Union"]

[Text] As we have already reported, the draft Treaty of Economic Union underwent substantial changes in the course of discussion by the republics' plenipotentiary representatives. One of the most serious changes is undoubtedly the removal from the document of the concept of private ownership, which, together with free enterprise, was proclaimed the basis of the economy's upsurge in the original version. It must be said that the international prestige and significance of private ownership in no way suffer because for some reason it does not enjoy popularity in Soviet official circles. Only our economy suffers because of this.

During the discussion at the first stage such very important life-support mechanisms of the future economic union as the obligatory nature of a common ruble space, the scheme for servicing the foreign debt, and also certain others were fundamentally altered. At the same time the republics' plenipotentiary representatives supplemented the draft treaty with certain new proposals, the most interesting of which is the creation, in addition to the interstate economic committee, also of a special economic parliament.

It can be assumed that the draft treaty agreed at the first Moscow stage will elicit a serious debate in Alma-Ata. In any case, G. Yavlinskiy, deputy chairman of the Committee for Operational Management of the National Economy, who heads this work, has declared that the structure, substance, and coordination of the articles in the original document do not make it possible to make such substantial corrections without detriment to the future union.

The fate of the Treaty of Economic Union will be still more dependent on the position which the republics' leaders and the USSR president take with regard to it. In a 30 October interview for journalists M. Gorbachev made it clear that he does not accept economic union without political union. He declared that a joint statement on this score by him and B. Yeltsin will be published in the very near future.

As is known, work on the Union Treaty was suspended after the August events. Now, once again, it is not known which republics are ready to participate in it and on what terms. At the same time it was planned to begin as early as October the conclusion of the Treaty of Economic Union, which is deliberately devoid of a political hue. Coordination of the economic treaty with a political one could defer the signing indefinitely—forever for certain republics—whereas literally every day and every signatory counts.

Thus, we could perfectly well end up in a situation in which relations among the majority of the republics will be confined as early as next year just to intergovernmental agreements for the delivery of a certain range of products.

Three Republics Sign Economic Agreement

OW0210220091 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2100 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On 2nd October in Alma Ata three republics, Belorussia, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, signed an agreement on economic cooperation. The President of the Council of Ministers, Vyacheslav Kebich, signed the accord on behalf of Belorussia. The Kazakh and Uzbek presidents, Nursultan Nazarbaev and Islam Karimov, signed on behalf of their republics.

The deputy president of the RSFSR Council of Ministers, Yevgeniy Saburov, said in an "INTERFAX" interview, that he had no principle objections to the kind of agreement signed by the three republics. "I would have signed the agreement, but I am not a politician and I cannot guarantee that Boris Yeltsin would also find it to his liking".

Yevgeniy Saburov was authorised by the Russian president to conduct negotiations in Alma Ata on behalf of the Russian Federation. The deputy president of the Committee for the Management of the National Economy, Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, told "Interfax" that it was possible that on Thursday Saburov would recommend to Yeltsin that he sign the document. Yavlinskiy said that what had happened was a unique occurrence. "In circumstances whereby the twelve republics are preparing to leave the union the fact that they are prepared in principle to sign a document of this level is a very hopeful sign", he remarked.

The president of the Interrepublican Economic Committee, Ivan Silayev, told correspondents that the three republics' decision to sign the agreement was "entirely regular".

Republics Discuss Foreign Economic Debt

PM0310090891 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Oct 91 Union Edition p 2

[Report by M. Berger: "Ministers Confirm Readiness to Pay Debts"]

[Text] A conference of leaders of the sovereign states' foreign economic departments and ministries was convened in Moscow last week on the initiative of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations.

The problems examined at the conference included: the elaboration of a joint foreign economic activity strategy, the prospects for going over to ruble convertibility, cooperation in the sphere of cadre training, and the principles of staffing overseas organs. But what was undoubtedly most important was a block of questions connected with paying off the USSR's foreign debt and determining the successors in law to our country's debts.

Today, under conditions of democratic transformations and upheavals, any part of the former inviolable Union or group of republics united according to a particular principle may declare anything it likes to be a strictly internal matter and demand that a third party respect its sovereignty and not interfere. Everything could end up an internal matter, except the foreign debt. The disappearance of the Soviet Union in its old form certainly does not mean the disappearance of the $77 billion which our superpower owed at the moment of disintegration ($60 billion to Western creditors and $17 billion to Asian and East European countries). Of course, creditors would be interested to know why and how their debtor has ceased to exist, but they are hardly prepared to pay such an astronomic sum for this.

If it suddenly comes to light that even a part of our debts has been left ownerless, then the doors of the world economy, on which we are knocking so persistently, might end up closed for a very long time. And our dependence on imports, in the opinion of specialists, is probably the main reason for the drop in production, among a range of reasons. The sharp drop in imports of raw materials, subassemblies, and equipment from abroad and the associated production interruptions and stoppages have considerably more effect than such a popular argument as the rupture of interrepublic ties. The dependence of the contents of the refrigerators in our houses on food imports is growing not daily but hourly. As INTERFAX reports, state food purchases stood at 33 million tonnes by the end of last week, or 22 million tonnes less than at the same time last year.

Therefore it is not suprising that all the republics without exception were represented at the conference of leaders of foreign economic departments (Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia as observers). A letter addressed to the USSR president (not signed, it is true, by the observers) states that at the conference the sovereign states confirmed their readiness to participate on an agreed quota basis in servicing and paying off the USSR's foreign debt on condition that a corresponding proportion of payments is received with regard to other countries' debt obligations to the USSR. However, a direct mechanism for sharing out the debt legacy has not yet been decided on, not even in very general outline. The proposal which they advanced on holding talks with the main creditors on granting deferments with regard to payments due during 1991-1994 may be considered the conference's most specific proposal in this sphere.

This will hardly fully reassure and satisfy our creditors, but at least we acknowledge our obligations—there are already many. The question of how specifically we will pay them off has not yet been elucidated. The conference participants decided to form a working group to draw up the text of the foreign economic section of the draft Economic Agreement. And if the group has completed its work by 1 October, as instructed, there is a theoretical chance of submitting its proposals for consideration to the premiers who are examining the draft economic agreement in Alma-Ata 1 October.

As regards the other questions discussed at the conference, the positions worked out in respect of them are as follows. The leaders of the foreign economic departments considered it unrealistic to go over to internal ruble convertibility as of 1 January 1992 and regarded as unjustified the decision on this of 19 August this year of the Union Republic Currency Committee (it would be interesting to know whether this still exists). The leaders of the foreign economic departments arrived at the conclusion that, given certain conditions, internal convertibility can be ensured as of 1 July next year. It is hard to say what such resolute romanticism is based on.

To coordinate and regulate foreign economic activity the conference proposed to create an Interrepublic Commission for Foreign Economic Relations, formed on parity principles from representatives of the sovereign republics. The conference even managed to work out the fundamental outline of an organizational structure of interrepublic cooperation in foreign economic ties for the transitional period and to define a list of the main questions covered by the organizational structures of the Interrepublic Commission for Foreign Economic Relations.

In the sphere of customs-tariff policy it is proposed to form a customs union with a unified customs territory, tariff, and regulations. True, the Moldovan representative did not agree with this.

The conference advocated preserving the institution of USSR trade missions for a transitional period. Only it is proposed, without changing their diplomatic status, to carry out an internal reorganization and to impart to them the nature of interrepublic trade and economic missions. The personnel working in them today will be interested to learn that it is proposed to release trade missions from the fulfillment of functions not directly linked with trade and economic cooperation and to bring the numbers into line with the volume of commodity turnover and the real prospects for developing cooperation.

It only remains to be ascertained now how the conference of leaders of foreign economic departments and the decisions adopted there will influence the development of events.

Interrepublic Transportation Coordination Planned

OW0310044191 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2254 GMT 2 Oct 91

[From the "Soviet Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] All the 15 former Soviet republics, including the now fully independent Baltics, plan to set up a body (a conference of transport ministers) to coordinate interrepublican transport. The final agreement spelling out the functions of the new structure is likely to be signed at the end of 1991, reports the USSR Transport Ministry.

The republics, in particular Russia, spoke in favour of keeping a centralized structure to control rail transport during the transitional period.

'Economic Club' Discusses Union Outlook

PM0210151591 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Sep 91 Union Edition p 2

[Report by M. Berger: "Republics Plus Union—An Equation With Two Unfathomable Elements"]

[Text] While, in the stuffy hall of the former party committee and former Union Cabinet, plenipotentiary representatives of the sovereign republics are discussing the terms of the economic agreement to which the authorities they represent will agree, the republics' ministers of foreign economic relations have been working for three days at the former "Belgrad" Hotel next to the Union Foreign Ministry.

They discussed the very same problems, or rather one of them: How can one share out the foreign debt in a manner acceptable to all? No sooner does the concept of economic union rear its head than a second and third concept emerges, giving (if the authors—whom I respect deeply—will forgive me) the very process of preparing global concepts a somewhat vaudevillian character.

It is not a matter of whose program is better or "more official," or who, where, and on what level agreement must be reached on the terms of economic coexistence (preferably peaceful coexistence). The problem resides in the emergence of a coincidental or organized parallelism, which at best splits the picture but also provides convincing proof that to all intents and purposes the center no longer exists.

So what is the true extent of disintegration and its consequences? How can the process of collapse be controlled in such a manner as to prevent the consequences from razing everything to the ground? If we take our cue from the work currently being conducted by the republic representatives discussing the draft economic agreement, a fragile hope emerges that the patient may be treated before he actually dies. During an evaluation of the progress of the discussion within the working groups (to which, unfortunately, the press was not admitted), Grigoriy Yavlinskiy said that matters are moving somewhat faster than could have been anticipated, although personally he continues to be wary.

The republic leaders discussing the draft economic agreement managed to agree on such "bloody" questions as a coordinated banking and monetary policy. Admittedly, Western experts are puzzled: What is meant by a "coordinated" policy with a common monetary unit? In their opinion, there can only be a single, stringent policy. But how can it be explained to them that the words "single," "Union," indeed the entire "central-Union" vocabulary, as Academician Petrakov called it, merely prompts irritation and active protest? Compromises have to be made, so vagueness remains: This is dangerous, but there is probably no other path along which any kind of progress can be made.

It is still hard to say what will ultimately be successfully agreed and what will not, or how soon the document will be ready and what the material consequences of its signing will be. Just as it is unclear what will happen if agreement is not reached for one or other reason.

Possible scenarios on the development of events were discussed at a regular session of the Economic Club—an informal (not numerous) association of economic authorities representing various positions but respected equally. Club members include Academician N. Petrakov, S. Shatalin, and eminent economists Ye. Gayder, A. Shokhin, Ye. Yasin, and G. Yavlinskiy.

The discussion on the future of the former Union began with attempts to define its remaining economic features. Such features are few but essential. They are the ruble, foreign financial and economic commitments, domestic loans (USSR securities including promissory commitments to provide new cars and other consumer durables), and finally the way in which the world perceives us.

The presence of these faltering but nonetheless clear features shows what remains of the former Union. For how long? And what shape will the new formation take, if indeed there is a new formation?

It is curious that many people reckon upon surviving the hard times following full separation by calling in its share of debts to the Soviet Union. According to information from the World Bank, the sum total of debts owed to us is almost double the USSR foreign debt. This bank calculates that we are owed $138 billion, and only 5 percent of this constitutes unsafe debt. The discussion in the Economic Club highlighted the danger of relying on this money. First, the USSR Foreign Economic Bank confirms that at the beginning of 1991 we were owed significantly less—$92 billion, half of which constituted unsafe debt. Second, only 40 percent of the overall sum is in hard currency: The rest is in the debtors' national currency which is no more attractive than the ruble.

Probably one of the most severe problems for the future economic setup—common or separate—is the foreign

debt. Western experts state unequivocally: If you use the democratic fervor to repeat the experience of the 1917 revolution and cancel your own debts, then you, your children, and grandchildren in this country will receive nothing from the world community. It is possible that the community will not be so categorical in practice, and nobody intends to repeat the revolutionary experience. So far, the talk centers on who will pay the foreign debt and how. But I fear that there is no just and well-founded method of dividing the Union's general indebtedness among the republics. Above all, the search will be based not on finding a just formula, but on finding an acceptable formula. G. Yavlinskiy's working groups have agreed that a common Foreign Economic Bank must be preserved for this very purpose, and it will collect payments on the basis of agreed rules.

However hard it is to reach agreement, it will be even harder to get hold of actual currency. Economic Club members discussing this problem stressed that the current export potential of 10 of the 15 republics does not exceed $0.5 billion per year. So where will the money come from? In theory, three main options are possible. The first, best, and least likely is that the republics will acknowledge their debt and punctiously repay it. In the second option, everybody acknowledges their debt but drags their feet and under various pretexts ends up either paying less or not at all. The third is that Russia—as the legal successor to the USSR—will assume the entire debt and upon doing so declare its right to the country's property abroad as well as a number of other legacies from the former Union.

In practice, the third option would signify the genuine collapse of the Union. Many Club members are inclined to consider the third option more probable, so one must be prepared for the consequences. A quantitative evaluation revealed differing opinions. Admittedly, the discussion concentrated on the "bad" or "very bad" prognoses. It is estimated that under present trends there will be a 20 percent fall in GNP by the end of the year, and a fall of no less than 15 percent next year. And you know, the processes underway will be compounded by the direct effect of the Union's collapse, which will be even more destructive for the republic economies than the disbandment of the Warsaw Pact was for its members.

No common view was reached on just how far it is to the bottom: Some think it is very close, others expect to fall still further and deeper. Admittedly, the opinion was expressed that free producers will quickly establish new links regardless of which economic agreement is finally signed and when. The possibility that this is what will happen has not been ruled out, although one cannot completely dismiss all the political obstacles. The majority of authorized republic representatives discussing the draft economic agreement with Yavlinskiy and his experts favor a pretty strange customs concept. According to this concept, they are prepared to offer full freedom of movement to the sovereign republics' citizens on a non-visa basis, but everyone spoke of the need to prevent "foreign" entrepreneurs from entering their sovereign territory.

In short, some do not want to agree on anything, while others are involved in the effort of trying to agree but do not inspire confidence that they will want or will fulfill the accords actually reached. It may not be in the best of taste to end with a poor joke by Yavlinskiy, but it seems appropriate to cite it nonetheless. He noted that events could develop in such a way as to put him and other professional economists out of work. A therapeutist—albeit an advocate of "shock" methods—or a surgeon is one thing. A pathologist is another. He simply does not know how he can help a corpse.

MDR Statement on Overcoming Economic Crisis

PM0210113591 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Oct 91 Union Edition p 2

[Unattributed report: "Toward a Civilized Market—With the Old Baggage"]

[Text] The Movement for Democratic Reforms [MDR] Political Council has adopted a statement on the economic situation and the need for interrepublic accord to overcome the economic crisis.

The MDR Political Council is deeply convinced that the only way to avert economic collapse is through decisive reforms aimed at creating a robust, civilized market in the country. The failure of the coup d'etat cleared the way for these reforms. However, a strange apathy has been observed within the last six weeks in the very sphere of economic transformations.

Transition to a civilized market should be effected through civilized methods. In the first place, in the MDR Political Council's opinion, this concerns the following key problems. Each republic which participates in the talks should firmly decide (and openly declare) whether it intends to create its own republic monetary system, and within what kind of time frame. This applies fully to Russia as well. It is essential that it be determined who is to remain in the ruble zone, who is to leave it, and whether this zone is to be preserved at all. We need to agree on the principles governing the operation of a central bank in the ruble zone. At all events the transition to national currency must be carried out according to a coordinated plan. The exchange rates of the republic currencies also requires this same coordination.

The great complexity of economic relations offers no hopes that they can be maintained for an extended period on a clearing transaction and barter deal basis. Normal economic life, without infringement of political sovereignty, can be ensured only by the free buying and selling of raw materials and the supply of equipment through intermediary wholesale firms and commodity-raw materials exchanges operating without restriction throughout the space covered by all the republics.

Each republic should clarify its position regarding customs policy. Custom houses cannot be valves operating in only one direction. Either there is customs union, or there is customs war—there are no other alternatives.

The second wave of nationalization since 1917 has now swept through the republics. The transformation of Union property into republic property is the transferal of administrative rights from the hands of Union bureaucrats into the hands of republic functionaries. Both of these are objectively antagonistic to free enterprise and the market. They will install administrative methods of economic management, above all in interrepublic relations. This is their bread and butter, a method of justifying their own existence. The only way to escape a new bureaucracy, the statement claims, is to carry out lawful privatization immediately.

Removal of Obstacles to Consumer Industry Urged

PM0310083491 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Oct 91 Union Edition p 10

["Editorial Office Viewpoint" article: "Otherwise We Will All Go Bankrupt"]

[Text] We are already burning our "candle" at both ends. On the one hand, our presses are running around the clock to print the rubles we owe the workers. On the other, our gold reserves are being depleted at an unprecedented rate in order to meet overdue debt repayments to the capitalists and allow us to buy a little of what we need most with foreign exchange. Is it any surprise that it is now as hard to buy sausages as it once was to buy gold?

Theoretically this "market" could work in just two extreme cases: Either we all mine gold, or we all make sausages. Small deviations would be possible, but not to the extent that we are experiencing: 25-30 percent of the population is mining gold and, figuratively speaking, making sausages, while the rest are either doing nothing, or stopping everyone else from working, or making tanks or things that nobody needs.

There is no point repeating for the hundredth or thousandth time what we ought to do in this situation. Judging by certain decisions and steps, the central and republic governments know all this only too well. It is no accident that they have recognized in law that loss-making enterprises will be allowed to go bankrupt. Only the other day they discovered that they could save almost 6 billion rubles on defense spending.

Of course, this is a drop in the ocean as far as military spending is concerned. Of course, the possibility of bankruptcy is more of a moral than an economic factor when the Main Administration for Production of State Bank Notes, Coins, and Medals is working round the clock and subsidies are being given out. But let's be realistic. Let's not ask the impossible. After all, in our country of mass parasitism any "no" in response to any "give me!" is seen as an affront to rural workers, the working class, the Army, science... And therefore, even if you are sure that you will win on the economic front, you cannot be sure that you will not lose on the political front.

But there is a way to move faster on the economy while taking virtually no risks. While gradually reducing orders for the defense sector, cutting the Army itself—which will otherwise have nothing left to protect—and reducing subsidies for loss-making enterprises and the money spent on maintaining profitable [byudzhetnyy] ones, what if we were to remove everything that is obstructing the development of industry for consumption?

We need to give the land back to the peasants. We need to reduce forthwith or abolish altogether taxes on enterprises in the food, processing, and light industries. And that includes cooperatives working for the consumer. We need to permit the construction of enterprises that people need. Using money from any source—unless it is proved to be of criminal origin. In general, it should be as easy to build, say, sausage plants in our country as it once was to build tank plants. But it is the plants we need, not a Ministry for Sausages alongside new Defense Ministry buildings.

Rising Wages Linked to Cash Shortages

924A0012A Moscow ARGUMENTY I FAKTY in Russian No 38, Sep 91 p 3

[Interview with Yu. Balagurov, chief of the Gosbank [State Bank] Administration of Currency Circulation, by ARGUMENTY I FAKTY correspondent G. Valyuzhenich; place and date not given: "Money... for Sale"]

[Text] *Where? For how much?—In Pavlodar. There, on the exchange, they pay 300,000 in non-cash funds for 200,000 in cash...*

Our correspondent G. Valyuzhenich asked Yu. Balagurov, chief of the Administration of Currency Circulation of the USSR Gosbank [State Bank], to comment on such purchases and sales.

[Balagurov] Commercial banks have come to possess a lot of cash, which in itself does not generate profits. In an attempt to extract some profits from the cash after all, the banks go for this kind of speculation, exacerbating the currency circulation situation in the country, which is difficult to begin with.

[Valyuzhenich] As we know, Yuriy Alekseyevich, there are no consequences without a reason. The Gosbank banned the issuance of cash to enterprises and organizations, except for funds to pay wages, and here is the result...

[Balagurov] There was no such ban. We merely recommended that the banks manage cash using common sense. The situation is such that all conceivable proportions between the population's income and expenditures have been violated. Calculations for the price reform

were built on a greater growth rate for expenditures by the populace. However, in reality everything has happened the other way around.

During the eight months of this year, the monetary income of the populace increased by 238 billion rubles [R] compared to the corresponding period of last year, including R106 billion for July and August.

Expenditures increased correspondingly by merely R157 billion, including R64 billion in the last two months.

During these eight months, savings deposits increased by more than a factor of two, and savings in cash by a factor of three.

The republics have begun to compete with each other in generosity, in who will be able to satisfy the population the most through monetary preferences and compensation. Belorussia and the Ukraine have lifted all restrictions on wages. Russia has also virtually eliminated them.

In connection with the growth in prices, the spontaneous process of wage increases has begun. As a result, there is a shortage of cash; cash reserves in the provinces are dispersed in the cash stocks of commercial banks, and it is extremely difficult to control them.

In keeping with the laws on enterprises and on cooperatives, settlements between enterprises and organizations should be effected, as a rule, in a non-cash mode. However, many of them try to skirt these laws. After all, you cannot use non-cash funds to bribe someone... Meanwhile, reports come in every day: Here or there funds are lacking to pay wages.

[Valyuzhenich] Does this mean that the printing presses should be turned on?

[Balagurov] It is plainly physically impossible to print more money than we now do. Goznak [Main Administration for the Production of State Bills, Coins, and Orders of the USSR Ministry of Finance] factories are running on three shifts.

In view of this, we addressed the banks with a recommendation to use the limited reserves of cash more efficiently. It is one thing if enterprises need money to pay wages, and you would agree that it is another thing when a cooperative needs money to buy a car from a private person...

[Valyuzhenich] How will procurement cooperatives handle the situation? After all, the peasants will perhaps not sell potatoes and cabbage for non-cash funds.

[Balagurov] Such cases were specifically discussed in our recommendations—there ought not to be any restrictions on the issuance of money for purchasing and procuring agricultural products.

[Valyuzhenich] R200 and R500 notes will soon be put in circulation. Will this alleviate the situation, or will it just boost the money supply?

[Balagurov] The money supply will not increase by virtue of this. All that will appear is an additional opportunity to meet the demand for cash. However, as they say, we have yet to live to see it.

[Valyuzhenich] The people are afraid that their savings will be frozen. Are there grounds for this?

[Balagurov] Despite this difficult situation, I am categorically against it. Incidentally, this issue was not even discussed at the USSR Gosbank.

It would turn out that those who have kept their money in the mattress would win and those who have trusted the state with their money would lose... The trust of the people should be valued.

Money Shortage in Altay Reported

924A0012A Moscow TRUD in Russian 26 Sep 91 p 2

[Unattributed article: "Currency Is in Short Supply Too"]

[Text] Barnaul—**Yet another shortage has been added to gasoline and other shortages in Altay: There is no money in the kray to provide the required amounts of cash; there is a shortage of 170 million rubles [R]. Deputy Chief of the Kray Gosbank [State Bank] Administration V. Saygashev stated:**

"It is not that there is no currency at all. We redistribute it among rayons, take it from some and give it to others. We charter planes and ship in money from Tomsk and other cities. For example, recently we brought in R50 million.

"Still, there is no currency: Banks refuse to issue loans to organizations; savings banks do not allow withdrawals of more than R1,000 from deposit accounts; shops try to talk large-scale buyers into paying with drafts and settling in the non-cash mode; in some areas, they cannot issue wages to workers and peasants."

TASS correspondent A. Markov approached S. Ganichev, chief of the Administration of Emission and Cash Operations of the USSR Gosbank, with a request to comment on this report.

S. Ganichev said: "The cash situation in our country is very tense. We may give a multitude of reasons for this state of affairs. However, the growth of prices and the increase in incomes which is not accompanied by consumer goods are the most significant reasons.

"According to our estimates, the shortage of currency will last until the end of October, or somewhat longer. The Gosbank is making efforts to normalize the situation. For example, we have embarked on printing R200 and R500 bills. It is possible that we will have to print still larger denominations. Besides, additional emission

will make it possible to reduce the gap between the needs and the availability of currency, but we will resort to this only in extreme cases."

Workers Seeking Employment in West

OW0310050391 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2254 GMT 2 Oct 91

[From the "Soviet Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Around 7 to 8 mn. [million] Soviet citizens can go to work abroad, say experts. Up to two million are ready to go West as soon as they can.

SOVIET MIGRATION SERVICE IS IN ITS INFANCY. This year the Union parliament recognized that every citizen, including those seeking employment abroad, had a right to leave for a foreign country. All emigration restrictions will officially be lifted on January 1, 1993, when emigration lav takes effect. By that date, the Soviet Union must have established a mechanism for the export of Soviet workforce to proceed in a "civilized manner", say experts of the Soviet Ministry for Labour and Social Issues' migration service.

Part of the mechanism may be intergovernmental agreements on sending Soviet citizens to work abroad. An agreement of this kind has already been signed with Belgium. A document has been initialed with Germany on sending 17000 Soviet workers there, and another document with Germany, on the reception of Soviet "guest workers", is in the works. The intergovernmental agreements provide a set of guarantees for Soviet migrants, including the employees obligations in case of a worker's death or disability and payment in accordance with the receiving country's rates.

WILL ONLY UNSKILLED WORKERS GO TO WORK ABROAD? The Soviet migration service management plans to help a "sizeable" number of Soviet guest workers to go abroad under intergovernmental agreements. Also, a network of bureaus is being established to register persons willing to work abroad. Private companies have leapt into the market too, but they offer no guarantees to their clients.

Migration service experts warn that Soviet workers may "draw lower wages and have fewer rights" that any workforce in the West because most of them will go abroad on their own, without help from the established structures. The Soviet Union may become a supplier of not only unskilled labour but also of high-skilled engineering personnel.

THE USSR CUTS DOWN ON NUMBER OF ITS GUEST WORKERS. The migration service executives believe that the USSR will continue to export [as received] workers, particularly from Asian countries.

Today the USSR has around 100,000 foreign workers, including more than 50,000 Vietnamese (70,000 at the beginning of 1991), 25,000 Chinese and North Koreans and Bulgarians. The USSR did not prolong the 10-year 1982 agreement with Vietnam that allowed this country to export Vietnamese workers, and all Vietnamese must leave the USSR by 1994.

Under its agreements with China, the USSR receives workers from that country, most of whom work in construction, agriculture and forestry in the Far East and Siberia.

The import of labour may eliminate the deficit of labour resources in those outlying areas, claim experts.

Uralmash Shares To Be Available to Foreigners

OW0210133191 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1145 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the privatisation committee of the Sverdlovsk City Council, the country's biggest Uralmash works will be transformed into an open joint-stock company. It will have a stock of 1 billion rubles comprising of the main production funds of the works. The Russian Securities firm is drafting the privatisation mechanism. Uralmash employing 40,000 people is expected to be split into several separate companies that will then be privatised. They will be controlled by the Uralmash holding company. Foreign companies and individuals will be able to purchase shares.

The new management structure will be introduced at the beginning of next year.

Agricultural

Article Blames Disorganization for Food Shortage

924A0020C Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Sep 91 Union p 2

[Article by V. Konovalov: "There Is No Reason To Have Starvation—But We Can Organize It"]

[Text] **Will there be hunger this winter or not? This question is permanently present now on TV screens and newspaper pages; it is the subject of animated discussions in streets and in the most diverse circles. But to find an answer to this question seems a lot harder than to predict the outcome of a European Cup soccer game.**

Really, what can we learn today from the data on crop harvests and agricultural produce deliveries? How do we tie up those figures with the promise of sufficient or insufficient goods on our winter tables? There is no specific pattern here. For that reason it seems doubtful that anyone from the most informed circles is capable now of predicting the next two months' food situation in our country.

If we can judge by the same data provided by the USSR State Committee for Statistics, this year was not one of

the most successful ones but it was quite normal for, say, the last two decades. Yu. Mordvintsev, USSR first deputy minister of agriculture and food, said the other day, for instance, that they expected a grain harvest of about 170 million tons. That is not any smaller than in the past years, five or 10 years ago, for instance.

The main thing is clear: We do have food and we are not going to starve to death during this coming winter. This can probably be predicted with full conviction. But there is another question: In what way and at what prices will the food be delivered to us? Here we have a lot of room for doubts. The recent statement made by the State Council about normalizing food supplies and about the agricultural policy of 1991 and 1992 was rather optimistic and decisive in character but it might be difficult to rely on, as is the case with any other guarantees. Any decisions or pledges or agreements have already changed in price today. For instance, even the kolkhozes and sovkhozes that agreed with the state order on grain do not intend to honor that order at all. They sold 32.3 million tons of grain to the state which is two and a half times less than what they had promised. The peasants are holding on to other kinds of produce also.

Recently, Siberian agricultural workers presented the Russian Government with an ultimatum in this respect. They threatened to stop sales of agricultural produce to the government at government prices and warned that they might shift "spontaneously" to free prices unless some decisive measures were taken to liberate the peasants from the dictatorship of industries, of skyrocketing prices, and of material and technical deprivation (instead of supplies). The peasants' claims are, undoubtedly, well-grounded. Sky-high prices of the resources and a sharp drop in the supply of those resources to the village make quite objective factors. It will suffice to say that in the first six months of this year the supplies of various equipment to kolkhozes and sovkhozes diminished by 15 to 30 percent compared with the last year which was also not very successful with respect to material and technical supplies for agriculture. The number of winnowers sent to the villages was cut by half. The present-day situation in the farm sector is by no means any better.

The consumers of agricultural produce are, however, no better. It often happens that many enterprises price agricultural produce in their barter agreements not only low but even below the production cost... A new phenomenon was born this year in the relations of the city and the village, of the sickle and the hammer: It is organized robbery. Our correspondent S. Troyan informs us that in Zaporozhye Oblast groups of city dwellers raid village fields with more and more frequency. The peasants have already started to set up defense committees, to arm with whatever weapons they can find, to post guards at plantations. Similar information comes from Ryazan, Tambov, and Yaroslavl oblasts and other regions. The interrepublic dissociation, severance of economic links, local monopolism—all these make our food situation even more unpredictable. Literally every day is adding either more hopes or more disappointments to it.

If we try to sum up the statistical data and the information on agricultural produce deliveries and add them to the food supply situation that keeps changing in front of our eyes, then this is the most general forecast: There is no reason for us to starve during the coming winter. We can only organize starvation by being disorganized and dissociated ourselves.

Deputy Minister 'Taking Measures'

924A0020B Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 26 Sep 91 First edition p 1

[Statement by Yu. Mordvintsev, USSR first deputy minister of agriculture: "What Is in Store for Us This Winter"]

[Text] "Since the beginning of the year, production of milk and meat has declined, state purchases of grain are going very slowly now, the rates of storing potatoes, vegetables, and fruits for the winter are not high enough. However, the situation is not desperate.

"There will be no starvation in the country. My firm conviction of it is primarily based on the fact that we are taking measures now to harvest all the crops on the fields and to process and store the produce. Millions of helpers went to the country from our cities with this purpose in view. They include workers of industrial enterprises, students, and Soviet Army soldiers. Incidentally, the rates of harvesting potatoes and other crops have risen sharply during the last week."

Fuel Shortage Endangers Volgograd Winter Crops

PM0110133591 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 1 Oct 91 p 1

[Report by D. Shevarov: "Harvest Will Be Eaten. By Pests"]

[Text] Because of the chronic shortage of fuel for light agricultural aircraft in Volgograd Oblast the top dressing of the winter crops has been disrupted. Some 40 percent of the areas, and that is about 1 million hectares, have remained untreated. Specialists calculate that unless this work done before the first snow then the pests concealed in the soil will simply eat the winter crop shoots in the spring. And if they do not eat them the weeds will still kill off the future harvest. It is impossible now to treat the enormous areas with different equipment.

The lack of fuel has already struck the airmen themselves—they have lost 2 million rubles in revenue for the local air detachment alone. This year not a single local flight was made. The transportation of workers on tours of duty—oil and gas workers—is being disrupted. But all this, I was told by air detachment deputy commander

Sergey Bakunov, will seem trivial compared with the tragedy which threatens us next year—the death of the grain.

Mid-September Weather, Crop Conditions

924A0001A Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 26 Sep 91 p 2

[Article by A. Grishina, agricultural meteorologist: "Weather and Crops"]

[Text] Light frosts were noted and rain fell almost everywhere at the beginning and middle of the last 10-day period.

In the Northwestern, Volga-Vyatka, and Urals regions and in the south of the Central region the growth and development of winter grain crops proceeded with a good supply of moisture. The August crops tillered, and later crops were at the stage of shoots and the third leaf. The condition of all winter crops was good for the most part. Over the rest of the European territory, including the northern Ukraine and the Volga region, the winter grain crops also developed with a good supply of heat and moisture.

In Moldova, the southern half of the Ukraine, the majority of the Northern-Caucasus region, and the Lower Volga region conditions were satisfactory for the preparation of the soil and for sowing and the appearance of shoots of the winter grain crops. The cultivable layer of the soil contained about 20 mm of productive moisture. However in a number of rayons of the southeastern, southern, and central oblasts of the Ukraine, the eastern Northern-Caucasus region, and places in the Lower Volga region, where there was no precipitation, the moistening of the cultivable layer of the soil sown with winter crops was unsatisfactory.

Warmer weather than normal predominated in Siberia. During the second half of the 10-day period light frosts were noted in the air and at the surface of the soil in the majority of regions. Over the majority of that territory, as well as in Kazakhstan, conditions for harvest work, procurement of fodders, and fall plowing were good and satisfactory.

In the first half of the 10-day period warm (the average daily temperature was 21-24) dry weather was maintained in the republics of Central Asia and in southern Kazakhstan. As a result, over the 10-day period one more boll formed per bush on the average, and two to three bolls in the southern oblasts.

Estonia

Savisaar, Navy Fleet Commander Discuss Withdrawal

OW0310033291 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1530 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Estonian Prime Minister Edgar Savisaar met in Tallin Wednesday with the new Commander-in-Chief of the USSR Navy's Baltic Fleet Vladimir Yegorov to discuss the gradual withdrawal of the USSR Navy units from Estonia.

Matti Pedak, an adviser on military affairs to the Estonian government, told BF [BALTFAX] that under the agreements reached earlier, the dismantling of the arms warehouses in Tallinn, in the village of Harku near Tallinn and on the Naissaar isle in the Tallinn gulf is about to begin.

The military air base of the USSR Navy in Suurkula, 40 km away from Tallinn, will be shut down. Bombers stationed at that base will no longer execute training flights over the isles of Suur-Pakri and Vaike-Pakri in the north-west of Estonia.

In an interview with BF Toomas Puura, head of the Estonian government's department on home defense and border control, said that all in all there are 5 major military air bases in Estonia. Three of them belong to the USSR Air Defense Force—one in Parnu, one in Haapsalu (western Estonia) and one in Tapa (northern Estonia). One more base, that of the USSR Air Force in Tartu with the headquarters in Smolensk, serves long-range strategic bombers. For a long time several nuclear bombs had been stationed at the base but last year they were removed from there, Mr. Puura noted.

He also said that Edgar Savisaar and State Minister Raivo Vare are set to meet with USSR Defense Minister Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov in Moscow Thursday.

Yesterday, October 1, in Tallinn Mr. Savisaar and Commander of the 6th North-Western Army of the USSR Air Defense Force Major- General Anatoliy Ivanov agreed to close the Parnu air base.

Council Discusses Organization of USSR Talks

LD0210134791 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1500 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] The Estonian Supreme Council chairman's council discussed the organization of talks with the USSR. The session was chaired by Supreme Council Chairman Arnold Ruutel. The Supreme Council chairman's press service reported to ETA that the session heard information from Prime Minister Edgar Savisaar about temporary agreements concluded by the government and about the future organization of the talks. Arnold Ruutel provided information about the telephone conversations which he held on these issues with USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev and with Anatoliy Sobchak, leader of the USSR delegation. It was decided to continue the discussion at the next session of the Supreme Council chairman's council on 7 October and to elaborate proposals to the Supreme Council in respect of the talks being held with the USSR. Participating in the session were Supreme Council chairman's council members; Supreme Council Speaker Ulo Nugis; Estonian Ministers Olev Laanjarv, Jaak Leimann, and Endel Lippmaa; Robert Narska, chairman of the Estonian Union of District Governments; Estonian Bank President Siim Kallas; and Arno Allmann, Raimund Hagelberg, and Advig Kiris, councillors of the Supreme Council chairman's council.

Prisoners Stage Strike Over Amnesty Demands

LD0210155391 Moscow TASS in English 1111 GMT 2 Oct 91

[By correspondent Albert Maloveryan]

[Text] Tallinn October 2 TASS—Prisoners convicted by former Soviet Estonia started a strike today demanding a general amnesty from the sovereign Estonian authorities.

Some prison terms can be reduced and certain convicts may be freed, but there will be no general amnesty, Estonian Interior Minister Olev Laanyarv said.

The minister said it is quieter in prisons today than it was during the strike last year. But the situation may become critical because of a lack of guards. A special Soviet regiment of prison guards will soon be withdrawn from Estonia and the convicts warn they will "deal with the prison administration" after that.

Only twenty five locals volunteered to become prison guards. Six of them have already quit training at a special centre.

Basic Map Production Program Detailed

LD0210173191 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1000 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Excerpts] For over 50 years Estonia has had no maps—geographical maps—of her own, and the maps we have had were produced in Moscow, with forcible distortions. Now Estonia is again making preparations for producing precise maps of Estonia under the leadership of the Land Department. Today there is a seminar on the premises of the Eesti Projekt [Estonian Design] that constitutes a part of the beginning of this difficult job. (Heiki Potter), chief specialist of the Estonian Land Department, provides details about the state of Estonian map-making at present.

[Begin (Potter) recording] [passage omitted] We at the Land Department have drawn up, in cooperation with other establishments, the so-called program for the basic map of Estonia; and 1991-2005—the next 15 years—have been planned for the implementation of the program. [passage omitted] We hope that in 10 to 15 years

we will arrive at a good basic map, to the scale of 1:10,000. And then on the basis of such basic maps any other maps on a smaller scale can be produced. At the same time we are holding talks with a Swedish space-geodetic firm—to be more precise, this is the Swedish Space Corporation—with whose help we are hoping to arrive at a basic map of 1:50,000. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Association of Freedom Fighters Established

LD0210160791 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 0700 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Today we hear of the first steps of the Association of Estonian Freedom Fighters. On Saturday the south Estonian and Tallinn initiative groups of Estonian freedom fighters met in Tartu. The structure of the future organization was discussed, together with its constitution, its place in present Estonian society, and its relationship to politics. Full agreement was not reached on the latter but the chief tasks of the Association of Freedom Fighters were still formulated. It is planned to register all surviving freedom fighters as quickly as possible. There is also a plan to gather war memories and to find out who fell in battles.

Organizing themselves in districts will also be among the prime tasks of the Association of Estonian Freedom Fighters. A committee was appointed to draft a constitution and program for the association. A resolution to set up the Association of Estonian Freedom Fighters was adopted on 23 September at Adavere, at a reunion of Estonian freedom fighters. A similar event was cancelled last year at Tori because of a slander campaign and the presence of paratroops.

Latvia

Godmanis Assesses Alma-Ata Talks

LD0310104191 Riga Radio Riga International in Latvian 0530 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Statement by Council of Ministers Chairman Ivars Godmanis to correspondent Velta Kruze in Alma-Ata on 1 October—recorded]

[Excerpts] Our position is very unequivocal that we would like to conclude bilateral agreements with these republics here, purely economic ones on exchange of commodities. [passage omitted]. Unfortunately, there is nobody from either Estonia or Lithuania here. Then the Estonian prime minister himself independently organizes the eastern policy and meets everybody without my knowledge. So I do not intend in the future to coordinate all my visits with our neighbors.

Well, the question is a different one. You see, the question is how we, in 1992, will survive regarding oil and oil products. That is one question. Basically this should be discussed not only with Russia, but also with those republics that have oil apart from Russia, such as Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan. [passage indistinct]

Furthermore, a very critical question concerning us is grain. At present the situation is such that there is grain nowhere in the Union—that is a fact. [passage omitted]

I shall right away go on quite a number of work missions to the West, again for a regular time, endeavoring to prove in the West that, apart from simple words, we really need assistance through investments, otherwise we shall not by any means be able to cast off the old economic system.

It is very important for me to compare the situation on both sides. Because of that I have also come here.

Further on Talks, Outcome

LD0210114491 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0600 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Telephone statement by Ivars Godmanis, chairman of the Latvian Council of Ministers, to unidentified correspondent, in Alma-Ata on 1 October—recorded]

[Excerpts] Today, the second day in Alma-Ata, the document proposed by Yavlinsky was discussed. [passage omitted]

At the very beginning I said that we will not enter into any union or concord. We shall not participate in any collective agreement, considering our independent status. However, we are interested in effective economic relations with each of those states that participate in this concord. I expressed that in the long term we shall be able to examine the question of our bilateral agreement with this concord as a whole. And this was understood so therefore I was not asked too many questions. [passage omitted]

Actually, it can be said that, personally to me, it appears that there was use of all of my comments that we need to consider how to conclude an agreement with Russia, and with some other republics, a direct trade, economic agreement on commodity exchanges, which is vitally important for our survival through winter until spring. At the same time, making the Union clearly understand that next year we shall change over to our currency. Of course, it is of use to get acquainted with that structure with which we may have to deal in the east, with the economic structure, which will, of course, also determine the political climate.

Ivans: Russian Territorial Issue Not an Issue

OW0310123291 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1115 GMT 3 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Vice-Chairman of the Latvian parliament Daynis Ivans has told BF [BALTFAX] that Latvia does not have territorial claims to Russia. He said the issue was not raised during any talks.

"The only possible disputed area could be Pytalovo region which used to belong to Latvia and was called Abrenan," he said. In 1920 the region was given over to independent Latvia by the Soviet Government, he said. The area is valuable because of the junction of railways to Estonia, Poland and Russia there. However, Ivans felt there is no burning necessity to raise the territorial issue during the talks with Russia. He said that the region could be given the status of a free economic zone.

Defense Official on Border Guard, Draftee Issues

LD0210180691 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1700 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Interview with Mihails Stepicevs of the Latvian Committee for Defense and Internal Affairs by reporter Anta Busa; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Busa] Mr. Stepicevs, at the plenary session today you reported on the changes to the law on the state border of the Republic of Latvia. Because this is a very urgent question and border guard troops are being formed—although perhaps not right away—I have two questions. What are the basic changes to the law on the state border of the Republic of Latvia?

[Stepicevs] The first is not a change but rather an addition. Whereas previously we spoke about the law on borders, there is now a border guard section on how the border is going to be guarded.

We altered Section 3, in which the border guard troops were previously not mentioned; they are now mentioned. We also altered Sections 4, 5, and 6 on the rights and duties of the border guards.

[Busa] Soldiers and officers called up from the territory of the Republic of Latvia to serve in the USSR Armed Forces are presently being retired and released. There are also some boys who have been called up literally just now, recently, this summer. Is it true that they will be invited to join the border guard service—at least at the present moment—if not the state service, which is also going to be established?

[Stepicevs] We are inviting mainly all the personnel who have served on the border, who have the experience, to join the border guard service. Officer cadres will be very necessary there, probably at the rank of ensign, but they must be inhabitants of Latvia, not persons who have come from foreign republics, and also soldiers. But at the same time we will begin to call up new soldiers for the service who we will train to work on the border.

As for all those who were recently called up, they are all being released, in accordance with the order issued by Shaposhnikov. They will return to our republic, but at this point there is still no law or resolution on how to include them in the service in the future. I am leery of giving a precise answer at this time.

[Busa] Frankly speaking then, those boys who did not go into the USSR Armed Forces, who believed in the law of the Republic of Latvia and the promise regarding the alternative service, will arrive now and will go right away, so to speak, into the Latvian state service, right?

[Stepicevs] The issue of the boys involved in the alternative service is also a question which has not been decided. It is urgent that it be decided, because it could turn out that those who are in the alternative service will have to serve, and those who were in the USSR forces will not have to serve. So that....

[Busa, interrupting] Yes, that is precisely what I wanted to clear up.

[Stepicevs] Yes, yes, there is some kind of inequality here. Of course, I believe that those who were in the alternative service should complete their service. As for those who have returned from the USSR Armed Forces, the people who willingly went to serve, I think it would be more proper if they would ultimately go into the service of Latvia and serve their time for the Republic of Latvia. But there is no law.

[Busa] But are the soldiers coming home now?

[Stepicevs] The soldiers are coming home, many are coming, but I do not yet know which of them have been recently called up, who have just now been called up and have returned. I do not know that yet. But there will be some, and the question must be decided. This issue will have to be (?discussed) at the earliest opportunity. We shall examine this question at the earliest sittings of the commission and something will have to be proposed to the Supreme Council, some resolution concerning these boys.

[Busa] Let us point out that the first kind of establishment they applied to was the military commissariat. When these boys return, or when they return now from the Army after having served two months, where should they turn to, or will they be collected under a different procedure?

[Stepicevs] It is very simple: They will go to their executive committees in the village councils. There they can produce their service certificates and be issued passports and have their residences registered, and they can live as they lived before.

[Busa] What if they do not want to go, if they want to take a rest, or can they simply go right away take up employment somewhere?

[Stepicevs] They cannot do this without documents. One way or another they must get themselves checked off.

[Busa] Thank you.

Popular Front Protesting Citizenship Stance

OW0310054091 Moscow BALTFAX in English 2100 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The board of Latvia's Popular Front has taken a decision on October 1 to begin collecting signatures under an appeal to hold a referendum on Latvian citizenship.

On the same day, a meeting of the Latvian Committee, which speaks for the people who used to be the citizens of Latvia before it was annexed by the USSR in 1940 and their descendants, decided to launch a campaign of civil disobedience which is to start on October 12 when a meeting will be held on the Domskaya square in Riga.

In the view of committee members, these moves are being undertaken because the policies pursued by the republic's parliament and particularly the stance taken by the Popular Front parliamentary group on the questions of citizenship and restitution of property nationalised during the years of Soviet rule to its owners are inconsistent with the vital interests of Latvian citizens. Specifically, the committee has expressed discontent that the parliament has so far failed to recognize as unlawful the process of "infiltration" of Soviet citizens into Latvia.

Baltic Customs Agreement Not Yet Signed

LD0210154991 Moscow TASS in English 1226 GMT 2 Oct 91

[By correspondent Galina Kuchina]

[Text] Riga October 2 TASS—Latvian Prime Minister Ivar Godmanis did not sign the document on the Baltic customs unity, as was reported in some mass media, TASS learned from well-informed Latvian governmental sources. The document will be signed by the leaderships of the three Baltic states before the end of the year, the sources said. The customs agreement will protect the Baltic states' borders but there will be no customs limitations between republics.

'Insulting' Remark by National Movement Leader

PM0210101991 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Sep 91 First Edition p 1

[Lieutenant Colonel V. Ranevskiy report under "Direct Line" rubric: "Prosecutor Gives Instructions"]

[Text] Riga—An interview with Latvian National Independence Movement Chairman V. Latsis, in which he curtly and clearly said of the Russians living in Latvia "You are contemptible" has had broad repercussions in the republic. Evidently the wave of indignation on this subject reached Ya. Skrastinsh, general prosecutor of the Latvian Republic. He instructed the Riga prosecutor to carry out an appropriate verification. "The things said at the interview were openly insulting," Skrastinsh stated.

M. Vitola, deputy chairman of the Latvian National Independence Movement, told journalists that this sensational interview by their colleague would be condemned at the session of the movement's council, and the movement would dissociate itself from him. Well, maybe it will dissociate itself, but the stance of the Latvian National Independence Movement will scarcely change, or indeed the stance of the Latvian Republic Citizens' Congress, whose radical tendencies in no way promote civil peace and the full implementation of human rights in the republic.

At a recent rally organized by the congress leaders to protest the policy of the Latvian People's Front faction in the Supreme Soviet a resolution was read out which condemned the present way of resolving the citizenship question that has been chosen in Latvia.

Military Officers Relieved of Deputy Status

OW0310053991 Moscow BALTFAX in English 2100 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Supreme Council of Latvia moved on October 2 to strip three military officers—Victor Alksnis, Yevgeni Yagupets and Igor Riabinin—of their status of people's deputies. The decision was taken in accordance with the resolution of the republic's parliament of August 29, 1991, "On the status of people's deputies from the armed forces" which required all members of parliament who were officers of the Soviet armed forces to submit a document about their demobilisation before September 15.

Colonel Victor Alksnis, who used to be one of the leaders of the "Soyuz" group in the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, is known to have been a vocal opponent of the independence of the Baltic states.

Conscription Delayed, To Begin Next Week

OW0210122391 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1145 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The director of the Public Security Department of Latvia Janis Baskers has told DIENA that the call-up for compulsory army service in the republic will probably begin early next week.

The drafting was supposed to start on October 1, he said. The main cause for the delay is the slow transition of drafting stations under Latvian jurisdiction. On Wednesday the Public Security Department is holding a seminar in Riga for organizers of conscription from rural areas to explain the details of the drafting.

According to Baskers, college and university students will not be called up till the end of their studies. If they do not reach the age of 25 by the time of graduation, their army service will last 6 months. There are no plans so far to have special sports or corrective battalions.

Border Guards To Assume Duties at New Year

LD0210153891 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 2001 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] At the beginning of the New Year, simultaneously on the western and eastern borders of the state of Latvia, Latvian border guards will begin to fulfill their service. This is what the deputy director of the republic's Public Security Department, Auseklis Plavins, said about the law on guarding the state borders adopted at the Supreme Council today. Almost 500 men who have served in the Army have already enlisted into the border guards. After special training they will form the nucleus of the professional cadres of the border guard and will work as border guard inspectors and commanders. They are already undergoing training at the Malpils and Ventspils training bases. In turn, several thousand young men who will be called up this autumn into compulsory state service will be transferred to be at the disposal of the border guard.

An agreement has been reached with USSR KGB Chairman Vadim Bakatin and the commander of the Baltic border guard troops, General Gaponenko, on handing over the implements, means, and weapons necessary to this service.

'Only Two' Arrests After August Coup Events

LD0210195691 Moscow TASS in English 1917 GMT 2 Oct 91

[By correspondent Valery Zaitsev]

[Text] Riga October 2 TASS—An investigation launched by the Latvian public prosecutor after the August coup in the Soviet Union has managed to avoid a "witch hunt" so far, as only two people are arrested.

Those are former Republican Communist Party chief Alfred Rubiks and his aide Vladimir Serdyukov.

The public prosecutor has sanctioned the arrest of eight more people.

About 700 citizens have given their testimonies and 15 newspapers and magazines published in Russian and Latvian with a total circulation of 300,000 copies have been closed.

Latvian law enforcement bodies and their Russian colleagues will also investigate into the activity of Riga's OMON men during the putsch. Many of them are now serving in Tyumen, Western Siberia.

Decree Announces Fuel Price Increase

OW0310024291 Moscow BALTFAX in English 2100 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The prices of fuel will shortly be going up in Latvia. A decree already drafted by the government proposes that the price of natural gas should go up one and a half times to Rb75 for 1,000 cubic metres (with its price at commodity exchanges in the USSR reaching Rb70). Liquified gas will become 10 percent more expensive at Rb480 a ton, while the price of coal will be rising 9.2 times to Rb98.1 a ton, the price of firewood—6.1 times to Rb36.45 per cubic metre, the price of briquetted peat will rise fourfold to Rb60 a ton, and the price of fuel oil will jump 6.2 times to Rb224.3 a ton.

Lithuania

Landsbergis on Restoration of U.S. Relations

PM0310091991 Vilnius EKHO LITVY in Russian 7 Sep 91 p 1

[ELTA report: "'We Are Returning to Legal Relations and Norms'"]

[Text] Vilnius, 6 Sep—Representatives of the U.S. State Department have arrived in Lithuania to discuss questions concerning the restoration of diplomatic relations. Today Lithuanian Supreme Council Chairman Vytautas Landsbergis received Curtis Kamman, deputy assistant secretary of state, and Paul Goble [surname as transliterated], assistant secretary of state for national affairs and head of the Baltic Department. They gave V. Landsbergis a letter from U.S. President George Bush.

A news conference was held after the reception.

"Today is a very important day on the road to strengthening our state's diplomatic and political position," V. Landsbergis said, addressing Lithuanian and foreign journalists. "A memorandum on regulating diplomatic relations between the Republic of Lithuania and the United States is going to be signed. We have just this minute reached an agreement: The document will be signed in a few hours' time.

"While we were talking in my office, we received a report from Moscow that the USSR State Council session in progress there has decided to recognize the Baltic countries' independence. We do not have the text of this document yet and so we cannot comment. However, the fact is gratifying in itself and is a positive factor in all respects—not only for Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, but also for the Soviet Union and the entire international community. We are returning to legal relations and norms."

Talking about Lithuania's recognition in Moscow, V. Landsbergis also pointed out that Soviet Russia recognized Lithuania in the 1920 peace treaty, which is why Lithuania has not requested new recognition but has aimed to restore diplomatic relations and end its annexation and the Soviet Union's claims to govern Lithuania. If they have chosen another formula, V. Landsbergis said, it shows that the Soviet Union will not impede or block Lithuania's participation in international organizations. So we hope that no obstacles will be placed in the way of Lithuania joining the United Nations. As far as any new treaties with the Soviet Union are concerned, either we would have to receive proposals or ideas would have to emerge on the basis of bilateral relations when it is clear what form the Soviet Union is going to take.

In his opinion, the news from Moscow will not affect the treaty signed with Russia. It is a treaty signed by two sovereign states, and no third country can influence our friendly bilateral relations.

Kamman said that he had had a very pleasant discussion on restoring diplomatic relations. A memorandum has been signed on the basis of an assessment of the present situation and the fact that the Baltic states can function as sovereign states. The two sides have reached an accord to restore diplomatic relations at ambassador level as quickly as possible. It is planned to open a U.S. Embassy in Lithuania and raise the Lithuanian mission in Washington to embassy level. U.S. embassies will also be opened in Riga and Tallinn. Treaties which existed between the two governments before diplomatic relations were severed 50 years ago will be reviewed and adapted to present-day conditions. It is planned to give Lithuania Most Favored Nation status in trade. This matter will be discussed in Congress, and we are hopeful of finding the right legal formula, Kamman said in conclusion.

The memorandum of agreement between the Lithuanian and U.S. governments on diplomatic relations was signed by Valdemaras Katkus, Lithuanian first deputy foreign minister, and Curtis Kamman, U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state.

Landsbergis Reiterates Stance on Troop Withdrawal

LD0210105591 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in English 0000 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Speaking on the national TV on Sunday, chairman of the Lithuanian parliament Vytautas Landsbergis confirmed once again that Lithuania was not going to negotiate the issue of the pullout of Soviet troops from the Lithuanian territory. The withdrawal of the Army is not a subject for discussions: That is an undebatable demand and a necessity, said Vytautas Landsbergis. According to him, the issue will get top priority on meeting with the Soviet negotiating delegation. If we fail to come to an understanding on this issue and agreement to start withdrawing Soviet troops immediately, we shall not be able to remain friendly, benevolent on other issues, to smile and demand nothing, said the chairman of the parliament, pointing up that in that case Lithuania will have to insist and apply pressure.

Vytautas Landsbergis rejected the argument that Lithuania ought to reconcile itself to the term of a few years of the Soviet troops' pullout, on the alleged grounds that the more rapid withdrawal would give the Soviets a lot of inconvenience. When they say it is a problem, we can ask whose problem, and may they not try and burden the problem on us. Let those who created the problem by their illegitimate actions 50 years ago solve it now, said Vytautas Landsbergis. He urged Lithuania's political forces, the possible opposition, and society, on the whole, to realize that the immediate withdrawal of the alien army was, as he put it, the most important task of our state and of the life of our society. The Army which occupied Lithuania during two days might leave but not within two days; two months, at least. By the new year, the main contingent of the troops ought to be removed, Landsbergis stated on national TV yesterday.

It is estimated that there are up to 80,000 Soviet troops in Lithuania.

Referring to domestic problems, Vytautas Landsbergis said that the problem of the stability of power was still acute and he urged society to support the current economic reforms, however painful they might be.

Supreme Council Debates Foreign Policy

LD0310132291 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 2000 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] The Supreme Council continued debate today on foreign policy, which started one week ago.

Deputy Lionginas Sepetys, who was the first to speak in the debate, stressed that foreign policy should be formulated by the Supreme Council and implemented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other ministries.

Deputy Virgilijus Cepaitis stressed that the world was ready to help us, but asked if we were ready to receive this help. A great deal will depend on how our economy develops. Foreign businessmen have begun complaining about our sluggishness. We do not keep our word, and information is being delayed. Thus we do not know how to work with our partners, we lack [word indistinct].

Deputy Jonas Tamulis noted that economic reform must be carried out first. Our ability to use the potential of Western countries will depend on the speed and effectiveness of the reform. The speaker stated that it was very important to ensure our security.

Deputy Aloyzas Sakalas spoke of political, economic, and other interests of Lithuania.

Deputy Narcizas Rasimavicius noted the it was essential to regain the lost economy and the European way of life.

Deputy Albinas Januska described the current and future cooperation between the Baltic states.

In the opinion of Deputy Czeslaw Okinczyc, contacts with Eastern states should be developed.

Views on the so-called Polish [words indistinct] the problems of relations with other states were shared by Deputies Vytautas Valiunas and Petras Vaitiekunas.

Foreign Minister Algirdas Saudargas summarized the observations of the participants in the debates and replied to questions.

Justas Paleckis, deputy chairman of the Supreme Council's foreign affairs commission, proposed that the debate should continue in one month's time and then a corresponding [word indistinct] of the Supreme Council be adopted.

Vilnius Not Notified of Shevardnadze's Appointment

OW0310125291 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1115 GMT 3 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Vice-Chairman of the Lithuanian parliament Ceslovac Stankiavicious speaking on local television on Thursday expressed surprise with the fact that the Lithuanian leadership has not been officially notified by the USSR about the appointment of Eduard Shevardnadze as the head of the Soviet delegation to the talks with Lithuania. He said that the Lithuanian leadership learned about the appointment only from media reports.

Stankiavicious said that the speedy withdrawal of Soviet troops from the republic is necessary for the success of the talks.

Republic Relations To Stay on Bilateral Treaties

OW0210122591 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1145 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a Wednesday news conference in Vilnius the press secretary of the Lithuanian parliament Audrius Azubalis said that the attitude of Lithuania to the Kazakhstan meeting (on economic agreement between republics of the former Union) remains unchanged."

"Lithuania will maintain relations with the other republics, but only on the basis of bilateral treaties," he said.

Three Deputies Stripped of Mandates

LD0310020791 Moscow TASS in English 1747 GMT 2 Oct 91

[By correspondent Valeriy Zaytsev]

[Text] Riga [as received] October 2 TASS—The Lithuanian [as received] parliament on Wednesday stripped Colonels Viktor Alksnis and Yevgeniy Yagupts and Vice Admiral Igor Ryabinin of their deputy mandates.

The decision was taken after the deputies refused to obey the parliament's demand to quit active military service, which is "incompatible with the status of a people's deputy."

The central republican election commission has been instructed to hold elections in three constituencies to replace the sacked deputies.

Vayshvila, USSR Defense Officials Talks Noted

PM0310091591 Vilnius EKHO LITVY in Russian 10 Sep 91 pp1-2

[Government Press Bureau report: "USSR Army Will Be Withdrawn From Lithuania"]

[Text] On 7 September a Lithuanian Government delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister Zigmas Vayshvila [name as transliterated] was received in Moscow by USSR Internal Affairs Minister V. Barannikov and USSR Defense Minister Ye. Shaposhnikov.

The talks with the ministers were amicable, businesslike, and mutually beneficial. The leaders of both ministries promised to do their utmost to help solve the problem of the Special Purpose Militia Detachment and return all property seized by the military, and also to help the Lithuanian General Prosecutor's Office to investigate the January and August events and the tragedy in Medininkai. They also discussed questions of material and technical supply and social guarantees for Soviet Army officers doing service in Lithuanian territory.

It was agreed with Minister V. Barannikov that the withdrawal of USSR Internal Troops subunits can begin in the near future and the withdrawal of the operational brigade stationed in Sniecus—immediately. Other formations will be withdrawn when Lithuanian Internal Affairs Ministry forces are ready to take over their functions and the USSR Internal Affairs Ministry can station them elsewhere in USSR territory. It was agreed that close cooperation between the two internal affairs ministries is needed now and that this cooperation must subsequently be regulated at interstate level. V. Barannikov promised that the 1,000 or so Lithuanians doing service in the USSR Internal Affairs Ministry Internal Troops will be demobilized as soon as instructions are received from the USSR leadership.

Minister Ye. Shaposhnikov promised to take measures to punish V. Ovcharov and O. Pikauskas, who were directly involved in carrying out the instructions of the coup leaders. The USSR Defense Ministry has also discussed the question of demobilizing Lithuanians. The minister said that no obstacles will be placed in the way of officers and warrant officers wishing to return to Lithuania.

It was agreed that the questions of military commissariats, the civil defense staff, Army forestries, the Voluntary Society for the Promotion of the Army, Air Force, and Navy, and their property could start to be tackled as early as 10 September. The prospect of withdrawing the Soviet Army from Lithuania was discussed. Paratroop formations will be withdrawn in the near future and the question of breaking up the North Camp will be dealt with immediately. It was agreed that a bilateral commission must be formed to study the state of the Siauliai military airfield and the possibility of moving it elsewhere.

It should be pointed out that during the conversation Minister Ye. Shaposhnikov did not even mention the possibility of the Soviet Army remaining in Lithuania.

The USSR internal affairs minister and USSR defense minister agreed that USSR Internal Affairs Ministry and Soviet Army subunits in Lithuanian territory must abide by Lithuanian laws.

'Unresolved' Problems of KGB's Future

PM0310081991 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Sep 91 Union Edition p 2

[Nikolay Lashkevich report under the "Direct Line" rubric: "Lithuania Parts With KGB"]

[Text] Vilnius—Some personnel from the Lithuanian branch of the USSR KGB will go to the Soviet Union, the rest will remain in Lithuania. That was one of decisions adopted during talks between the leadership of the republic and the KGB.

An earlier Lithuanian Government resolution stipulated that this department's staffers who had expressed a desire to work in Lithuania and had not committed crimes against the republic were guaranteed employment, reeducation and retraining, unemployment subsidies, their place in the line for housing, their seniority [stazh], and the resolution of other social problems.

Lithuanian Vice Premier Z. Vaisvila said in the press that an inventory at all KGB rayon offices has almost been completed, questions of property transfer resolved, and so on.

Speaking on television, V. Landsbergis broached the question of KGB agents in Lithuania. He said that, during the meeting with the KGB delegation, he had asked for KGB archives previously taken to the USSR to be returned to Lithuania. It is the Lithuanian state's internal affair whether to publish lists of agents or not.

The question of totally winding up the USSR KGB structures in Lithuania today primarily comes up against an as yet impenetrable wall of unresolved political problems. How, in particular, will Lithuania be able to undertake to guard the borders if it is still not known where these borders will be? Who will pay pensions to former state security officers who remain in Lithuania and how? In short, there are several more rounds of talks ahead.

Concern About Conscripts' Return Noted

LD0210144291 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Russian 2130 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] The Lithuanian Government announced that it has information that the youths called up from Lithuania and now serving in the Soviet Army are not being sufficiently informed that a law was passed on their release from the Soviet Army. By USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev's 19 September decree and by order of USSR Defense Minister Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, the youths who have been called up from Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia and who are serving in the USSR Armed Forces, border, and railway troops, must be released by the end of October. Nevertheless, Vice Premier Zigmas Vaisvila is regularly receiving letters from the youths who are complaining that their superiors are in no hurry to solve the issues of releasing them from the Army.

Monarchy Pretender Confers Title on Landsbergis

OW0310005791 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1700 GMT 2 Oct 91

["Megalomania of Alexey Brumel"—BALTFAX headline; Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Alexey Brumel who calls himself a regent of the Russian Monarchy told BF [BALTFAX] that he had conferred the title of a prince on Chairman of the Lithuanian parliament Vytautas Landsbergis. A certificate signed by Brumel and another "regent" Arkadiy Bugayev says that Vytautas Landsbergis "displayed selflessness, heroism and persistence in struggling for the Baltics' independence".

Earlier, Brumel had bestowed the title of the Grand Duke to Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Asked by a BF's correspondent who else of the Baltic leaders will receive the titles, Brumel responded that shortly Estonian Premier Edgar Savisaar will become a count.

Supreme Soviet

Chairmen of Republics Hold Conference 30 Sep

LD0210155191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1904 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow, 1 Oct (TASS)—The Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Supreme Soviet Presidium press service reports that a conference of the Supreme Soviet chairmen of republics within the Russian Federation took place 30 September to 1 October in the Council of Nationalities of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet and was devoted to socioeconomic and nationalities problems.

The conference paid great attention to further refinement of the executive structures of power and harmonization of state relations and relations among nationalities in the conditions of shaping new ties between sovereign republics.

Taking part in the conference were: R.I. Khasbulatov, acting chairman of the Supreme Soviet; R.G. Abdulatipov, chairman of the Council of Nationalities; Yu.V. Skokov and S.M. Shakhray, RSFSR state advisers; G.S. Zhukov, chairman of the Committee on Work of the Soviets of People's Deputies and Development of Self-Government; and Yu.M. Voronin of the Commission on the Budget, Plans, Taxation, and Prices.

Khasbulatov Ready To Step Down for New Leader

OW0210230891 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1530 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ruslan Khasbulatov has described the position of the former speaker of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet Union Chamber Vladimir Isakov as "sabotage and subversion".

In his Wednesday's address to the chamber he congratulated it on the change of chairman and called on the deputies for more tolerance and less aggressiveness. Recalling that Vladimir Isakov acted at the 1st Congress of People's Deputies as Yeltsin's trusted aide, Ruslan Khasbulatov pointed out that a turnabout came in his position right after Yeltsin got into a road accident last autumn. Khasbulatov revealed that he'd had "excruciatingly hard time" getting legislation through the blocks put up by Vladimir Isakov. He expressed hope that from now on both houses will be able to work full force.

He appealed to the deputies to give serious thought to the candidature of the chairman of the republic's Supreme Soviet saying he would be ready to step down if he knew an authoritative leader had been found.

Parliament To Consider Tax System Proposals

OW0310043991 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2254 GMT 2 Oct 91

[From the "Soviet Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian parliament plans to consider shortly a package of bills on tax system, including corporation income tax, company property tax, investment tax credit, stock, banking profit tax, and securities transaction tax.

In accordance with the taxation bill (there are plans to make it effective since January 1, 1992) a corporation's foreign-exchange earnings will be converted into Rbs. [rubles] in accordance with the official market rate of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Central Bank, no matter whether the earnings continue to be kept on the foreign exchange accounts, were sold at an auction or were used in settlements and payments in the form of foreign exchange.

IF [INTERFAX] learned from the Russian parliament that the converted earnings will be added to the Rbs. earnings and will be taxed in Rbs. in accordance with the general rules.

PRAVDA Views Socioeconomic Resolution

PM0210095591 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Sep 91 Single Edition p 1

[Article by V. Shirokov under the "Pursuing the Topic" rubric: "Council of Ministers Flunks It"]

[Text] The Russian parliament has given its government a "failing" mark for its implementation of the measures of the anticrisis program and the program to revitalize the countryside.

The Russian Federation's Supreme Soviet resolution "On the Socioeconomic Situation in the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic]" suggests that the RSFSR president "purge" the Council of Ministers' personnel and withdraw the portfolios of those ministers who "have not come up with the goods." He has to present the state program for the economy's stabilization and the transition to market relations for ratification by the RSFSR Supreme Soviet no later than by 1 November of this year.

As far as the latter is concerned, having cursed a bit, you only want to pose one question: How long is this going to go on? We parliamentary journalists have already built up a file of numerous and varied programs which is "heavier than a pile of weighty tomes." The names of their compilers emerge and then fade into oblivion, propaganda waves promoting the latest panacea splash into life then die back, and the shabby cart of our economy is still simply unable to get going. That is to say from the deepest of damp gullies.

All well and good. Let us sigh and, with our traditional Christian Russian (or Muslim, or Jewish, or Buddhist) patience, pin our hopes yet again on chance. The chance that the program will be adopted this time, and mainly that—whatever it is like—it will begin to be implemented. As to whose proud name it will then bear, this would not matter to us. As long as it gets going.

Noting in its preamble [konstatiruyushchaya chast] that "a process of arbitrary seizure of state property is under way," the resolution demands that a procedure for bringing enterprises formerly in Union ownership under RSFSR jurisdiction should be ratified by 1 October 1991, ensuring their uninterrupted functioning. But it looks as if the main obstacle will arise precisely because of this "uninterrupted functioning." Hardly had he become chairman of the USSR Committee for Operational Management of the National Economy, than I. Silayev, whose cabinet of ministers had flunked it, made a smart turnabout and sent a letter appealing to the RSFSR president to suspend the effect of certain of his decrees and ordinances on transferring certain Union enterprises and institutions, as well as buildings and installations occupied by USSR ministries and departments, under RSFSR jurisdiction.

It is not at all a question of "betraying Russia's interests" of which Ivan Silayev was recently accused at a session of the RSFSR Council of Ministers. It is simply that, being an experienced economic planner, he is perfectly well aware: You cannot stick the cracked washtub of the single economic space together without some—maybe temporary, but nonetheless functioning—structures, levers, and mechanisms. Whoever were to "take charge of" the USSR Committee for Operational Management of the National Economy, be it Silayev or not, he would act in exactly the same manner. As the saying goes, if you claim to be a driver, drive the car. Even if it is the USSR president's "car"...

And one more "subtlety." When I. Silayev served the Russian parliament in a loyal and devoted manner, excessive eulogies of him were delivered which were sweeter than holy oil. Hardly had he made a "step out of line" than a barrage of curses rained down on him, and a collection of "compromising materials" began. Do you recognize the method—whoever is not with us is against us?

And where is the difference between the former partocrats and the present democrats?

Federation Affairs

Yeltsin Institutes Adviser on Security Council

PM0210141491 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Sep 91 p 1

[Unattributed untitled report under general heading: "RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Presidential Decree"]

[Text] In addition to RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Presidential Decree No. 13 dated 19 July 1991 (On the RSFSR President's Administration), by a presidential decree of 19 September the RSFSR president's administration staff is to include the services of an RSFSR state adviser—the secretary of the RSFSR Presidential Commission for Formulating Proposals on the Status, Structure, and Procedure for the Activity of the RSFSR Security Council.

Yeltsin Staff, Deputies Meet on Power Bodies

LD0210105191 Moscow TASS in English 2049 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow October 1 TASS—A regular information meeting of representatives of the Russian president's staff and people's deputies of the Russian Federation was held on October 1 at the Russian House of Soviets, the press service of the Russian parliament reports.

The meeting was attended by secretary of the Russian Supreme Soviet Presidium Sergey Filatov, Russian State Secretary Gennadiy Burbulis and head of the Russian president's staff Yuriy Petrov.

The meeting focussed on the interaction of supreme executive and legislative power bodies.

In connection with numerous questions by deputies on the stand of the president's staff as regards forming structures of the Union executive authorities, which is going on against the background of the declaration of independence by former Union republics, Russian State Secretary Burbulis spoke in favour of constituting the role of the Russian Federation as the successor of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Head of the president's staff Petrov informed deputies on the destiny of the Soviet Communist Party's property and planned forms of its usage.

Burbulis, Yeltsin To Work on Special Concerns

OW0210125291 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1145 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Secretary of State Gennadiy Burbulis told Russian MPs [Member of Parliament] on Tuesday that he is going to work with President Yeltsin for two or three days on issues of special concern.

He felt that "though not through any fault of its own the Russian Federation must declare its independence today." According to Burbulis, Russia should not be "naive" and declare itself the legal successor of the Union.

He added that "when full-blooded Russia announces the process, all the republics will have to heed it."

Burbulis spoke critically of the old draft of the Union treaty preserving the functions and powers of the central government.

The secretary of state spoke of certain "legal embarrassment" caused by the delay in defining the place of the CPSU and RCP [Russian Communist Party] in political structures. According to Burbulis, an appropriate way out of the situation will soon be proposed and the Communist Party will be allowed to hold a plenum.

Stankevich Urges Republic's Independence

LD0210174191 Moscow TASS in English 1718 GMT 2 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Vitaliy Dzbibuti]

[Text] Moscow October 2 TASS—Russia should become an independent state immediately, as the processes of gaining statehood in former Soviet republics are far ahead of those in this part of the country, leaving it in a disadvantageous and unequal position, a senior Russian official said.

State Counsellor Sergey Stankevich was commenting in a TASS interview on the bombshell statement by Russian Secretary of State Gennadiy Burbulis that Russia "can and should become" successor in rights to the USSR and all its structures.

Stankevich noted that Burbulis had spoken only of the Russian Republic's readiness to be successor in rights to far from all of the Union's powers and functions. Those, however, included, control over nuclear arms. Stankevich argued that unless the sides worked out a solution to the issue in the next few days, Russia would appear only and natural successor in rights in that respect.

But there should be no arbitrary and unilateral actions, he warned. Intensive dialogue with republics was needed, and such dialogue was already under way.

The former Union would be transformed, in keeping with the wishes of most republics, into a union of states. That, Stankevich said, would change the situation in principle: only a state, and not a union of states, could be represented in the United Nations Security Council.

Russia could also be successors in right to most of the former Union's international commitments, for the larger share of Soviet liabilities would fall on it, and the republic was prepared for that, stankevich said.

Speaking of the future of the federal parliament and president, he said they would continue to be needed. Parliament would reconcile different republican interests and a president trusted by partner states would also be required, for example to act as a mediator bringing the sides' interests closer together.

That meant a new role and new functions for both parliament and the president, Stankevich said.

Russian Council of Republic Ousts Speaker Isakov

LD0210122491 Moscow TASS in English 1212 GMT 2 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow October 2 TASS—Vladimir Isakov, chairman of the Council of the Republic, one of the Russian parliament's two chambers, was sacked by a majority vote today.

A week ago, the parliament's democratic wing failed to muster a mere six votes to carry the motion through.

This morning, the proposal to relieve Isakov of his duties was moved again and carried through.

Observers say the reason for the move was rooted in Isakov's conservative views, as well as his position during the botched coup last August.

Today's vote bore out the forecast made by acting chairman of the Russian parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov in an interview with TASS last week: "Isakov will be removed by all means. Only with a greater moral damage and greater losses for work".

The chamber is now electing a new speaker and his deputy.

Ryabov Named New Head

OW0210130791 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1145 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Wednesday the House of the Republic of the Russian parliament brought a vote of no confidence against the chairman of the house Vladimir Isakov by an overwhelming majority. 68 MPs [Member of Parliament] backed the vote, six abstained and nine voted against. The issue was added to the initial agenda of the session.

Nikolay Ryabov, Mikhail Zakharov, Vladimir Grachev and Ivan Galushko were nominated candidates to the vacant post. Nikolay Ryabov, 45, was elected the speaker of the House of the Republic by secret ballot. A graduate of the school of law of Rostov University he is the chairman of the subcommittee for legislation. Ryabov is a member of the parliamentary group Communists for Democracy and left the CPSU during the putsch.

Rutskoy Interviewed on Fate of Russia

LD0210120491 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2120 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Report on interview with Aleksandr Rutskoy, Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] vice president, by "Vesti" special correspondent Sergey Rybin; place and date not given: "Aleksandr Rutskoy: 'I Am Ashamed Before People'"—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Almost one and one-half months have elapsed since the August revolution. Almost one and one-half months have passed since Aleksandr Rutskoy organized the defense of the Russian White House. He arrested the coup participants in Foros and saved the country's president. What concerns Rutskoy today? He agreed to give an interview to Sergey Rybin, special correspondent of the "Vesti" program, warning that he would not speak as vice president, but as a person who, like all of us, is concerned about the fate of Russia. [passage omitted]

[Rutskoy] One would have thought that all the republics, all the political leaders of these republics, should be united by one thought: the creation of a democratic union, as a state. The reverse has happened. You know what is happening? I think—I do not want to insult the political leaders of other republics, as these are their domestic affairs—but often some of them express not the actual position of the people but their own political ambitions.

Yesterday I sat with Mikhail Sergeyevich and we talked for a long time. That was from 1000. A polemic argument proceeded until 1500. Ivan Stepanovich Silayev was there, [Grigoriy] Yavlinskiy was there, [Yevgeniy] Saburov was there, and [Georgiy] Shakhnazarov was there. We sat and argued. We argued about what we should really do now in the given situation.

Opinion swayed to and fro, left and right. We established two positions: the position on an economic agreement—the immediate action on an economic agreement among all the republics—and a political agreement—the formation of a union.

[Rybin] I know that you have your own opinion on this.

[Rutskoy] I have a totally opposite opinion. Let's examine this. I have specially obtained details of coal exports from enterprises and organizations located on Russian territory passing via the customs services of Russia and other republics for the first six months of 1991. Just look. Russia's exports as a proportion of the total volume were 14.11 percent, and the Ukraine's were 73.7 percent. How does this match up? Take a look at coal resources in the Ukraine and in Russia! This is intolerable, isn't it? They are simply being reexported. They buy for rubles and sell for hard currency. Let's look at some more facts. Let's look at exports of crude oil from enterprises and organizations located on Russia's territory via the customs services of Russia and other republics in the first six months. For Russia the figure is 59 percent of the total volume, while for Latvia it is 32.7 percent. I have nothing against Latvia, but does Latvia produce oil? Exports of the products of oil refining by enterprises and organizations located on Russian territory via the customs services of Russia and other republics in the first six months show: Russia, 20.7 percent, the Ukraine, 45 percent, and Latvia, 23 percent. The figure for Latvia is even higher than for Russia. I am sorry, but there is a limit to everything. Do you see what I am getting at? Russia has its people. There are people in Russia who want to eat, drink, be clothed and housed, and have medicines.

Why do I insist on a political union being created and concluded in the first instance, in other words, the creation of a union of sovereign states? This is actually the position of Mikhail Sergeyevich, and I back it. Even if it consists of just Russia, Kazakhstan, and Belarus, that would be enough. If there are another two or three states, that is also enough. But we have already formed ourselves into the nucleus of a new union, a union of sovereign states, sovereign republics. From that point of view we can take a precise unit of measurement and accordingly draw up a program for economic stabilization, development of the economy, and political stabilization of this new union. In other words, we can define our position clearly.

The next stage, which is already under way, is what certain comrades, certain leaders are insisting on with regard to the signing of an economic treaty with the republics that have not joined the union. In this respect I have just one viewpoint. This economic treaty must be based on international rules. I stress international rules. Economic relations must accordingly be based on the level of international prices. Otherwise, Russia will extract oil and sell it to the Ukraine, and the Ukraine will reexport it for dollars. We sold it for rubles. How many years is it going to take us to get out of our crisis that way? You know, it is embarrassing to go out into the streets. People keep asking: When are you going to start doing something about it?

Just look at our laws. No one in the West understands them. Why is our parliament constantly in a state of excitement, trying to devise and invent some sort of incomprehensible bicycle? [passage omitted]

[Rutskoy] In the final analysis, Boris Nikolayevich, the president, will answer for everything that is now happening and the fact that we are toppling into an incomprehensible state. The rest will not answer. [passage omitted]

[Rutskoy] We set up a government. The government has worked for a year. What has changed in Russia? In reality, do you feel that anything has changed?

[Rybin] Practically nothing, no. [passage omitted] How long will these troubled times continue, in your view, and how will it end? What is your forecast?

[Rutskoy] My forecast is this: I will be objective. In this situation, if Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin were not president, and if Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev were not president of the union, quite honestly I would leave and do my job, honestly, my favorite profession. Why? It is very difficult living in limbo, in some kind of embryonic, incomprehensible rudimentary condition. Quite honestly I, as a human being, am pleased that both Mikhail Sergeyevich and Boris Nikolayevich have found a common language. I believe—what I was just talking

about, we discussed this with Mikhail Sergeyevich. Boris Nikolayevich is currently on holiday and I do not want to worry him with this matter, but what I was expressing is also the concept of the USSR President Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev. Why? It is time, you know, for Russia to stop being a cow milked by anyone who feels like it. Concrete action is needed now. If we, in Russia, were destitute, then it would be possible to go along with this humanitarian aid, and so on and so on, but we aren't destitute, you see, we're proud people and have had enough of playing the role of beggars. And I will tell you that in this situation both Boris Nikolayevich and Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, I think, in the coming few days, will come together, choose the correct standpoint, and constructive, real actions will begin. You have to make demands on those who have been entrusted with authority, who have been entrusted with power, because a lack of responsibility generates a power vacuum, and a power vacuum generates a crisis. If we keep to this tactic for another two or three months, this crisis of confidence will simply come to an end.

Candidate Urges Nuremburg Trial for Plotters

OW0210004191 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2025 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The St. Petersburg chapter of the Democratic Russia Movement has nominated the prominent lawyer Yuriy Schmidt as a candidate for the public prosecutor at the future trial of the members of the State Emegency Committee.

Mr. Schmidt told INTERFAX's reporter that he believes that the public prosecutor should act as a sort of "counterbalance" to both the prosecution and defense during the trial, since "both sides might overlook various meaningful details".

He said he would like it to be a Nuremburg-style trial to be conducted by an interrepublican panel of judges.

Unofficial sources say Mr. Schmidt's candidacy is supported by St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoly Sobchak.

Poltoranin on Threat to Russia From Center

PM0210140091 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Sep 91 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Mikhail Poltoranin, member of the Russian Federation State Council, by chief editor Valentin Logunov; place and date of interview not stated: "It Appears That the Center, Having Recovered From the August Upheavals, Is Again Turning Its Gaze Toward Russia"]

[Text] [Logunov] Mikhail Nikiforovich, I cannot hide the fact that I am in a state of commotion about the conflict that has occurred—or rather, that has quite simply become patently obvious today—at the recent session of the Russian Council of Ministers. As is now known, it examined the letter from Ivan Stepanovich Silayev, leader of the Committee for the Operational Management of the USSR National Economy, to Russian President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin. I have this letter before me. In it, "in connection with the crackdown on the coup d'etat and the restoration of the constitutional structure of power and management," on behalf of the Committee for the Operational Management of the USSR National Economy, Silayev "deems it expedient to temporarily suspend, pending solutions to relevant questions by agreement between republics," the activity of many fundamental—as it seems to me—acts of the Russian Federation.

What are these acts? Well, first of all, Silayev proposes to suspend the transfer to RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] authority of enterprises and organizations that are now under Union authority. Second, to suspend the validity of the RSFSR Presidential Decree on the procedure for implementing Union organs' decisions concerning the import and export of goods, as well as the size of customs duties, on Russian territory. Third, it is intended to suspend the validity of the Russian president's instruction on transferring to the assets of the Russian State Committee for the Management of State Property nonresidential premises, buildings, and constructions in Moscow that were occupied by the former USSR Cabinet of Ministers and USSR ministries, departments, and organizations. Fourth, to suspend the handover of communications enterprises under Union authority and all types of government communications operating on the territory of the Russian Federation.

As you can see from the letter, Ivan Stepanovich doubts the legitimacy of transferring the IAN news agency to the control of your ministry. He has deemed inexpedient the transfer to RSFSR authority of the customs service that is on our territory and the procedure established by President Yeltsin for the export of precious metals and stones from the republic's territory.

I was especially struck by the statement in the letter to the effect that "the decisions of the Committee for the Operational Management of the USSR National Economy **are binding on the territory of the whole USSR**." I doubt that Kravchuk, Nazarbayev, and other leaders of sovereign states received such letters.

So, what is this, an attempt to create a neo-center headed by a neo-Pavlov? But how can the Russian premier, who has often demonstrated his commitment to Russian sovereignty, suddenly chop off at the roots a tree that he himself planted?

[Poltoranin] First of all, I must say that the letter was sent to all the power structures of the former center. This is a signal: Comrades, do not worry, all is not yet lost. I have in mind the Union ministries and departments that have lost all control of property on the territory of other republics; they are not even trying to restore them, but,

in their death throes, are trying to wield power over Russia. Russia is their last base. They have nowhere to retreat, after the last base there is nonexistence. Strictly speaking, the putschists pursued the same aim: to subdue Russia first and foremost. After Russia, of course, other republics would also be enslaved, but first of all, the strongest one would have to be knocked down, and democracy would have to be stifled in its cradle.

The current attempt to invalidate the gains of August is essentially the same policy but implemented using different methods and means: "on the sly." This was to be expected: If it does not work one way, you have to try from another direction. If that does not work, they will approach from a third direction.

[Logunov] I would agree with this conclusion, but I am troubled by Silayev's role in such a scenario. After all, he has under his belt his previous actions and deeds and his open and I believe, sincere, support for Yeltsin at the elections. Without vacillating and perhaps even without any doubts, he supported Russian sovereignty in its most difficult days and months. And then suddenly, when freedom glimmers on the horizon, to push it away? That cannot be right.... Some people are prepared to accuse Silayev of betrayal and conspiracy, but these accusations also seem to me to be superficial. Of course, anything can happen in big-time politics, there are no limits either to the most lofty spiritual manifestations, or to the vilest aspirations. However, people who are involved in big-time politics as a rule know how to analyze things. So I do not understand why our premier had the bird in hand but has suddenly let it go and said that the bird is the property of an ephemeral committee.

[Poltoranin] Let us start with the fact that the "Yeltsin-Silayev" connection is to a great extent the invention of the mass media. It could not have existed, since before his election as president, Yeltsin represented legislative power, whereas Silayev represented executive power. Their positions were not supposed to coincide absolutely.

After Yeltsin was elected president, the Council of Ministers should have been built into presidential power and become part of it. Silayev, it seems to me, still does not understand this objective need. Furthermore, he is completely unable to move away from politics, the desire to be in the public eye, to be on television, to totally devote himself to politics, while the Council of Ministers is called upon to involve itself in economics. The president has concepts of political and social transformations. The Council of Ministers is responsible for specific measures and organizing the implementation of programs.

But the trouble is that there are simply no specific large-scale acts. Despite the numerous proposals. Everything gets swamped somewhere. Or is distorted until it is unrecognizable. Or is lost on desks on its way from one office to another.

We spoke about this at the Council of Ministers session which went on for around 12 hours. And we came to the conclusion that when Silayev thinks and is really himself, he makes correct decisions, but he only has to weaken and transfer his trust to the people nearest him, to immediately lose his individuality. This characteristic of his is well-known. And the government members drew attention to this. We warned: The apparatus is swallowing you up, it is tying you up, it is turning you into its instrument. Mikhail Maley said straight out: "Ivan Stepanovich, we would like you to run the Council of Ministers, and not Zakharova, chief of the secretariat."

[Logunov] I understand that there is something bigger hidden behind the description of the style of work.

[Poltoranin] Yes, underneath there lies an increase in tension between the Council of Ministers apparatus and the fledgling presidential structures. The slow, unscrupulous, obliging Council of Ministers apparatus, which is accustomed only to humoring its superior command (it is not important who the individual may be—only the post is significant), glimpsed a danger—mainly a loss of influence. And it started to "steer" its chief. They know just how to do this: play on vanity, sugar the sweet pill and sharpen the bitter pill. Most likely, Ivan Stepanovich could not cope psychologically with such pressure and did not know how to distance himself from apparatus ballyhoo. Here, incidentally, is an example of how an individual who has embarked resolutely on the road to democracy—a man with democratic convictions—can, under the influence of the apparatus, move over to the camp of those who no longer care about society's interests almost without noticing the change himself. The principle of collectivity is ignored, ministers begin to be supplanted by apparatus clerks (things are simple with them as they kowtow readily and are only too willing to agree with everybody). Naturally, major questions are left unsolved, whereas much attention is given to resolving those issues from which the clerk himself stands to gain. In the draft resolution, we noted that the Council of Ministers and its leaders, in contravention of established legislative procedure, offered various organizations unjustified tax and other benefits. This is lobbyism. Over the next few days, the Finance Ministry will prepare a report on the extent of and justification for these benefits. It is not impossible that this will then be taken up by the Prosecutor's Office. The Ministry of Justice will be instructed to provide the government with a list of Council of Ministers resolutions and orders which are obstructing the realization of Congress decisions, Supreme Soviet decisions, and presidential decrees aimed at safeguarding the economic basis of Russian sovereignty.

[Logunov] So can we say that political opposition to the Russian president and Supreme Soviet is about to emerge—if it has not done so already—deep within the Council of Ministers? If so, the steps being undertaken and the offensive launched after the abortive putsch acquire an internal logic. Everything falls into place. The plan: to try once again to snatch power from a president elected by the people. Or at the very least, to preserve dual power in Russia. To put it crudely, to fish in

troubled waters during a period of instability. If this is so, then Gorbachev's figure floats to the surface again. I am convinced that he is not the kind of person to accept a secondary role. In my opinion, his pride has been unbearably painfully stung, and he is badly wounded. Not so much by the treachery of those prisoners currently in the "slammer" as by the courage and nobility of his long-standing political opponent.

[Poltoranin] This is a complicated question. Objectively, the reanimation of the central structures would be desirable for Gorbachev as USSR president. Without them, there can be no levers for governing the country—at least, the superficially maintained, theoretical, symbolically united entity which he is accused of destroying. And if the issue was not about Gorbachev, I would agree with such a conclusion.

I think that Gorbachev is above all that, above making deals. But I fully admit that, aware of Gorbachev's situation, the team which Silayev has apparently joined seeks to /present/ [word printed in boldface] him with a reanimated center and itself gain a foothold therein.

In my opinion, to prevent any further suspicion on this score, Gorbachev should explain his position clearly. It must be remembered that neither the USSR Constitution, the USSR Supreme Soviet, nor the USSR State Council has invested the Committee for Management of the USSR National Economy with the right to take decisions which are binding on the republics. Yet this right is asserted in the letter. Nonsense: Some kind of frankly incomprehensible formation is encroaching upon Russian sovereignty! Once the USSR president express a direct opinion on this score it will be clear whether he supports the new "putschists" or not.

[Logunov] Nevertheless, I do not believe that Ivan Stepanovich is leading this dance. Other forces are there...

[Poltoranin] I also think that this is not in Silayev's nature, and it is not he who is at the center of this plan. Let's not forget that Gorbachev's entourage was far from totally purged after the putsch. Many influential people remain unidentified, but they would like to return to the pre-putsch situation—that is, to an all-powerful center which is answerable for nothing. To regain power over Russia. I know that preparations for interrepublic structures are being cooked up right now in secret kitchens. We have asked Silayev to tell us, just what's cooking in these kitchens? He remains silent. So once again is Russia going to be forced to sort out someone else's mess?

The elaboration of interrepublic formations should be done from below, from the republics. I fear that secrecy over this is no accident. Is there really no conspiracy here? For example, those republic leaders who do not want to part with Bolshevism still see Russia as the milch cow. Will it not turn out that one day—as if by accident—these regulating documents will crop up again in the USSR State Council, and everybody will hastily cast their vote in favor against Yeltsin's lone "against," and once again Russia will fall under the wheels of what will now be interrepublic structures?

[Logunov] Indeed, all of these possibilities spring to mind. Personally, I am wary of a certain calm in the political world. It is the quiet before the storm, and Silayev's letter was the first distant but quite audible clap of thunder. So, what can we expect? I am not talking about tanks, but about a new—mortal—danger. The danger which derives from the people's weariness and despair. We must be clear once and for all on Russia's identity.

[Poltoranin] Yes, however wearing the questions of foodstuffs, commodity supplies, and the cold winter may be for us, the main thing is to set up a Russian state. We must work swiftly with the former autonomies. We must convince them that a fragmented Russia will know no warmth, no peace...

[Logunov] I will interrupt you here. Nobody wants a strong Russia. This is a different subject, but it must be understood: Nobody wants it! Not in the West, the East, or the South.

[Poltoranin] But on the other hand, Russia is a factor which nobody can do without. Especially in the limited, basically new economic community. It is simply imperative to define Russia's place in this community, and to state firmly the terms by which we are prepared to cooperate extensively and fully with the sovereign states. Russia must be seen as a just and honest partner. And the reanimation of central structures must cease once and for all.

[Logunov] So one can relate to them as to a specter: a bit frightening, but not material. But once, just such a specter [communism] haunted Europe. And everyone knows how it finally materialized.

Silayev's Conflict of Interests Viewed

PM0210102191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Sep 91 Union Edition pp 1, 2

[Report by M. Berger: "Silayev Against Silayev. The Main Issue at the Russian Council of Ministers Session Was One For Which the Agenda Made No Provision"]

[Text] Power is not without conflicts. That is what power is all about—insisting, demanding, and striving. Upholding their interests, plant directors argued and argue with ministers, ministers argue with councils of ministers, and councils of ministers argue with presidents. Conflicts between various levels of authority are becoming especially acute and significant now that property and powers of authority themselves are being redistributed.

The republic-center conflict is world-renowned and Russia is no exception. In agreeing to head central organs of management, Ivan Silayev put a bomb under himself.

In performing his "main" job, he could not help but uphold Russia's interests, which often conflicted with the interests of the center, on whose behalf he now has to act. The bomb has not yet exploded but the timing mechanism was set in motion when a letter from Silayev to Yeltsin was read out at Monday's session of the Russian Council of Ministers, speaking of the advisability of suspending the operation of a number of the Russian president's decrees and ordinances before a corresponding accord is established with the republics.

It is mainly a question of decisions concerning the transfer of Union property to Russian ownership. In particular, the well-known Decree No. 66 of 20 August and several others designed to provide economic backup for Russian sovereignty.

Many members of the Russian Government saw this appeal as encroaching not only on the republic's property rights but also on the policy formulated by the Congress of People's Deputies, which even the president himself is not entitled to change personally. Incidentally, Boris Yeltsin should, notionally, hand the letter from the head of the Committee for the Operational Management of the National Economy to his premier to examine. But how can Silayev examine Silayev's letter?

Hardly anyone would really suspect the head of the government of betraying Russia's interests. Everything he does (even if not lacking in mistaken decisions) indicates the absurdity of such suspicions. Even the last few weeks when Silayev led the "provisional government" gave him a convincing alibi against charges of betraying the republic's interests. It was at a session of this Committee for Management of the National Economy that he heard a sharp attack from Yu. Luzhkov for Russia's going too far in disposing of property. After which, as is well-known, Silayev even said that he is willing to resign as head of the "provisional government."

Then came an unexpected turn of events: Just a few days later he was accused of quite the opposite. Everything indicates that the two clearest currents holding sway over Russian (and not only Russian) politicians are at war within Silayev himself. To use early-20th century revolutionary terminology, the first current can conventionally be described as "liquidationists." They oppose the preservation of institutions of power which would to varying degrees be the rightful successors of the imperial authorities. In their viewpoint, that is not only futile (the former Union's sovereign states will not obediently do these organs' will) but also harmful since it prolongs the empire's death throes and retards real reform of the system.

Representatives of the other current are convinced that we cannot survive without a coordinating center vested with certain powers of authority by agreement with the republics since disjointed economic policy pursued by republics that are linked like Siamese twins will cause them to totally collapse before they can take advantage of the fruits of full and absolute independence.

Judging by the way the members of the Russian Government reacted to Silayev's letter, here there are far more representatives of the former current than of the latter. The danger of the regime's restoration or even the preservation of individual elements—albeit in a changed form with different functions—is probably more alarming than the danger of economic collapse.

Representatives of the former current claim that the very fact that this letter appeared has invigorated the old Union management structures. As a result of the attempts to "drive" property into Russia and back, a number of enterprises, military enterprises among others, have effectively found themselves outside the sphere of management. But that is not the most important point. The main point, many government members reckon, is the fact that, as a result of proclaiming sovereignty, all the republics have settled ownership questions apart from Russia, which is prepared to discuss the problems of a limited number of installations under general ownership, but refuses to be the successor of a center that owned everything in the abstract and nothing concrete.

The emergent conflict has given occasion to discuss the activity of the Russian Government in general which, its members attest, previously did nothing. In many people's opinion, this question has become particularly pressing since the formation of the Russian presidential apparatus, of which the Council of Ministers Administration of Affairs became a subunit. The government has as a result been left without an apparatus and with a small secretariat. In this connection the question also arose of the powers of ministers over which no apparatus can and should prevail.

I must note that despite the sharpness of the discussion and the question put pointblank to Silayev—of either working on the Committee for Operational Management or the Russian Government—members of the Russian Cabinet said that it would be better for the premier to return to Russia. If Silayev chooses Union structures, there will be no shortage of candidates for the post of head of the Russian Government. It is being said that the list of candidates no longer fits on a single standard sheet of paper. This indicates that there is still no real undoubted contender for this post in Russia.

On Wednesday the Council of Ministers returned to examining problems that have arisen.

Poll Shows Popularity of Prime Minister Silayev

OW0310084791 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1634 GMT 3 Oct 91

[From the "Viewpoint" program; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The "Data" Agency reports that 35 percent of Russian citizens believe that in ten years Russia will be a flourishing country. These figures are based on a poll of 994 people conducted by the National Public Opinion Studies Centre (VCIOM) in 13 cities in the Russian Federation on 28th-29th September.

There were far more pessimists than there were optimists—42 percent.

23 percent were unable to give an answer.

Margin of error: 3 percent.

The same poll asked the question, "Would you like Ivan Silayev to remain prime minister of the Russian Federation?"

43 percent gave an affirmative answer.

About half that number (20 percent) said they would like to see somebody else take the post.

The remainder were unable to give an answer.

Candidates for New Prime Minister Suggested

LD0210045191 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2200 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] Viktor Utkin, secretary of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Supreme Soviet's Committee for Economic Reform, expressed the opinion that after Ivan Silayev leaves the post of RSFSR prime minister, the republic's government will be left without a prime minister for a long time. Silayev announced his resignation on Friday.

In an interview to the INTERFAX news agency, Viktor Utkin named Ruslan Khasbulatov, acting chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet; Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, deputy chairman of the committee for the operative administration of the national economy; and RSFSR Minister of Economy Yevgeniy Saburov among most likely candidates for the post of the head of the Russia's Cabinet of Ministers. Utkin assessed the chances of Oleg Lobov, first deputy chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers, and Svyatoslav Fedorov, a famous ophthalmologist, as being very slim.

In turn, deputy Viktor Sheynis said that he does not see any convincing candidates for the post of prime minister today. At the same time, he expressed fears that when determining a candidate for the post of prime minister of the Russian Federation, the Secretariat attached to the president of the Russian Federation may have serious influence. According to Sheynis, the leadership of the Secretariat is not responsible to the parliament and does not enjoy political prestige. Nevertheless, in Sheynis' opinion, the role of the Secretariat is far too great.

Revelations About Salvation Committees Promised

PM0110153591 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Sep 91 Union Edition p 12

[IZVESTIYA investigation report: "The Tracks of the Plot, or Seven Months Prior to the Putsch"]

[Text] The abbreviation "SCSE" [State Committee for the State of Emergency], which became so widely known and detested throughout the world, has somewhat overshadowed another such abbreviation, the NSC—"national salvation committees." Yet it was precisely these committees which were conceived as a yoke which the reaction, naturally "at the request of the working people," intended to impose on all of us. The dress rehearsal for the formation of the first of these putschist organs were the January events in Vilnius.

A great deal has been written about these events. But much remains yet to be revealed. Our newspaper has information to the effect that the formation of the Lithuanian NSC was by no means a local initiative. The tracks of the plot seven months prior to the putsch lead from the Lithuanian capital to Moscow and even far beyond the confines of the Soviet Union, to the Southern Hemisphere.

In the next few days we will begin to publish materials furnished by an IZVESTIYA journalistic investigation.

Leadership To Occupy Former CPSU Premises

LD0110195191 Moscow TASS in English 1824 GMT 1 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Gennady Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow October 1 TASS—Part of the Russian president's staff will move into the former office of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee on Staraya Square, head of the Russian president's staff Yuriy Petrov said today.

The leadership of the Russian Council of ministers and some Russian ministries and departments will soon move to the same building, Petrov told TASS and the RIA news agency.

As for the Russian president, he will keep his study at the Russian house of Soviets on Krasnopresnenskaya Embankment.

As it is known, the over 90 per cent reduction of staffs of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee and the Russian Communist Party is now under consideration.

The two parties will keep about 100 executives and 70 employees to consider the dismissal of those liable to it, as well as to solve financial issues. Thus, the remaining staffers will not need all the buildings previously occupied by the party.

According to the available information, the Soviet Communist Party has over 12 billion roubles and the equivalent of almost 15 million foreign currency roubles in freely convertible currency on various accounts, Petrov said.

However, the court will decide the destiny of this money, he added.

KGB Organized Crime Unit Chief Named

PM0210150191 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Sep 91 p 1

[Unattributed report under the "Brief Line" rubric]

[Text] Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR], has appointed Sergey Almazov chief of the Russian KGB Directorate for Combating Organized Crime. The same ordinance of the RSFSR president appoints Valeriy Mikhaylyuk chief of the Russian KGB Operational-Information Directorate.

Foreign Minister on Dangers for Democratic Forces

LD0210043191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1832 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] Rome, 30 Sep (TASS)—Speaking at a seminar today, A. Kozyrev, Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] minister of foreign affairs, stressed that if preliminary results are not produced in the next two to three months by the political and economic reforms that have been planned, conservative forces in the USSR may again attempt to carry out a putsch with the aim of restoring the old regime.

The democratic forces in the USSR, said A. Kozyrev, are not experienced in running a state. It may be that disillusioned individuals could rise up against absolutely everything, something the conservatives would try to exploit. However, chaos in a country that remains a large nuclear power is fraught with enormous danger. To avoid it, it is necessary to carry reforms out rapidly and to demonstrate to people that the situation is changing for the better.

The RSFSR minister of foreign affairs called on the West to assist the democratic forces in the USSR and to ensure that the country does not fall into the hands of the conservatives. This assistance should be channelled to the reformers, those who are moving towards the market, he said. Otherwise it will be used to strengthen the old system.

Former Economic Chairman on 'Incorrect' Policies

OW0210011091 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2300 GMT 1 Oct 91

[From the "Soviet Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Mikhail Bocharov who recently resigned as chairman of the Supreme Economic Council of Russia described the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Government members as "incompetents" and their policies as "incorrect".

Explaining his resignation at yesterday's press conference in Moscow, Mr Bocharov said that the main motive was that the government had thrown out the council's blueprints for radical economic reforms.

Among them, said Bocharov, was an alternative project for the Union treaty and a new tax policy programme that had been developed together with U.S. experts.

Bocharov said that the Russian Government "had also ignored" the suggestion that the Communist Party property holdings be sold to Soviet and foreign businesspeople. According to him, the state could earn some 210 bn Rbs [rubles], an amount equal to current Soviet budget deficit.

Minister Takes Issue With Property Demands

PM0110101391 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Sep 91 Single Edition p 2

[Article by F. Belelyubskiy: "But the Logic Is the Same..."]

[Text] The weekly ROSSIYA published an interview with M. Poltoranin, minister of information and press, a considerable part of which is devoted to the future of our newspaper.

ROSSIYA's correspondent asked: "Yesterday the PRAVDA editorial office demanded that the USSR president and members of the State Council 'immediately resolve the question of officially transferring ownership to the newspaper... of the building that it occupies and some of the newspaper production unit at the printing house, along with auxiliary establishments.' What comment can you pass on this statement?" We reproduce part of the answer: "I think that this is a groundless demand. If we follow this logic, everyone should today be asking the State Council to take possession of their enterprises: ZIL should be handed over to the ZIL collective, all the oilfields handed over to the Tyumen oilmen, and so on. And roughly the same thing should happen to PRAVDA."

Fortunately, we are not the only ones to follow this logic. The PRAVDA collective welcomed RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] President B.N. Yeltsin's decree "On the Development of Tyumen Oblast," which says in particular: "It is established that as of 1992 enterprises and organizations in Tyumen Oblast are entitled to freely utilize up to 30 percent (10 percent for oil and gas) of the output that they produce—the figure is up to 50 percent for fishery and fish processing enterprises—using the money received therefrom to maintain the requisite production level, for technical retooling, and to resolve the socioeconomic

problems besetting the oblast's labor collectives and population." (ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, 24 September 1991). Certainly, we do indeed want to follow the internal logic of the socioeconomic transformations in our country. We would like to follow the example set by Tyumen's oil men. We urge M. Poltoranin to help us to do this.

Exports Slashed in Half; Earnings To Repay Debt

LD0210214191 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1800 GMT 2 Oct 91

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Details of the confidential report by the Russian Government, which the republic's Cabinet of Ministers discussed last week have come to light. According to the document, Soviet exports will be reduced next year by more than half compared with those in 1990. Half of the income from the exports will be used to pay back the foreign debts and the interest on them.

Union Federation Wants Pay Hike Limits Lifted

LD0210132291 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0900 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] The Federation of Independent Trade Unions of the Russian Republic calls for lifting all restrictions on wage raises. One of the leaders of the federation, Mr. (Romanov), said this, speaking at a trade union conference in Khabarovsk. Market prices must be matched with market wages. This is how he formulated the demand of the federation. It is noted in this connection that the Russian parliament's commission on social policy is poorly oriented to the protection of the rights and interests of the working people. The Russian trade unions will be pressing for immediate passage in parliament a bill on indexation of the population's incomes.

Bank Chairman States Share of National Debt

PM0210090191 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 1 Oct 91 p 5

[Report from roundup of REUTER, AFP, and TASS reports]

[Text] As of 1 September the USSR foreign debt was $68 billion. Of this sum the Russian Federation accounts for 60 percent—in accordance with its share in the USSR's overall industrial production volume. This was announced to an EC delegation by G. Matyukhin, chairman of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Central Bank.

'Shield' Seeks End to National Guard Obstacles

OW0210224291 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1530 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A statement addressed to Boris Yeltsin by the Moscow Union for Protecting the Rights of the Military rebukes Russia's president for neglecting his promise to set up a national guard as a guarantee of the Federation's safety against a new putsch.

The authors of the statement point out that the situation in the country calls for measures "against proliferation of nuclear arms and a speedy organisation of Russia's own Defence Ministry". The National Guard is to serve as a foundation for a future army of the Russian Federation. At the same time the statement warns that "the frightened generals and the new- baked colonels have decided to substitute for a truly popular national guard the 'elite' troops of the existing USSR armed forces which are hopeless to be reformed".

The statement protests that following the failed coup those officers are being persecuted in the army who supported Russia's leadership.

Soldiers' Mothers Stage Hunger Strike

OW0210143591 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1145 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Delegates to the congress of Russian servicemen's mothers started a hunger strike without a time limit at the central entrance of the Russian parliament at 12:00 on Wednesday. They are protesting against the appointment of A. Alekseyev to the post of the chairman of the committee for servicemen and their families under the USSR President.

The hunger strikers also demand an immediate meeting with the head of the Russian parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov, the resignation of the head of Yeltsin's office V. Ilyushin and TV time for the leader of the movement of servicemen's mothers.

If the demands are not fulfilled the hunger strikers threaten to start a railway blockade. The ultimatum is made in a message to the Russian parliament signed by the leader of the movement Lyubov Lymar and the chairman of the Shield association Vitaliy Urazhtsev.

New Russian Army Sports Organization Formed

PM0210083691 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Oct 91 Single Edition p 2

[Report by PRAVDA correspondent N. Senchev: "DOSAAF (Voluntary Society for the Promotion of the Army, Aviation, and Navy) Now Replaced by OSTO"]

[Text] Penza—I suppose that everyone is familiar with the first abbreviation. But what is OSTO? It is the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Defense Sports and Technical Organization, which has replaced the Russian DOSAAF [Voluntary Society for the Promotion of the Army, Aviation, and Navy]. This organization's founding conference has taken place in

Penza. A. Anokhin became head of the OSTO council. OSTO's main task, as is evident from its statutes and program, is to actively develop technical sports and to prepare young people for their working lives and for service in the Russian Armed Forces.

Local Affairs

Yeltsin Appoints Heads of Oblast Administrations

PM0210141091 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Sep 91 p 1

[Decree No. 125 of RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] President B. Yeltsin, 19 Sep 1991: "On the Appointment of Heads of Administration for Arkhangelsk, Volgograd, and Irkutsk Oblasts"]

[Text] On the basis of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet Resolution No. 1626-1 of 21 August 1991 "On the RSFSR President's Additional Powers To Ensure the Legality of the Activity of Soviets of People's Deputies in the Course of Eliminating the Consequences of the Coup d'Etat in the USSR," I resolve:

To appoint as heads of administrations:
Pavel Nikolayevich Balakshin—for Arkhangelsk Oblast.
Ivan Petrovich Shabunin—for Volgograd Oblast.
Yuriy Abramovich Nozhikov—for Irkutsk Oblast.

RSFSR President B. Yeltsin. The Kremlin, Moscow.

Amur Oblast KGB Chief Fired After Investigation

PM0210141891 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Sep 91 p 1

[Untitled report from TASS, CIA, ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA roundup under general heading: "News in Brief"]

[Text] An investigation held by a Russian KGB commission into the actions of the State Security Directorate for Amur Oblast has come to an end. Directorate leader Colonel Shlyk has been dismissed from his post.

Privatization Aids Balakovo TV, Power Industry

OW0310035791 Moscow Central Television First Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1900 GMT 10 Sep 91

[Report by V. Ryazanov; from the "Utro" program]

[Text] This is Balakovo. What is interesting here is that even with stiff competition posed by acknowleged favorites from Moscow and Leningrad, local television journalists are fast scoring points.

The "Ekspress" advertising information agency—incidentally, it also publishes the weekly newspaper KRUG VASHIKH INTERESOV [YOUR SPHERE OF INTERESTS]—began transmissions exactly one year ago. Nevertheless, Balakovo TV considers 20 August 1991 its birthday.

Violating all the KGChP [State Committee for the State of Emergency] bans, Balakovo TV continued broadcasting, using not only its 10-meter [?desometrovym] channel 49, but also on the second all-Union program. In its news segment, it broadcast the position of local authorities, condemned the coup attempt, and broadcast international responses. Satellite television transmissions helped. Without exaggeration, local TV, on 20 and 21 August, became a window on the world for Balakovo citizens. But as is well known, he who controls information also controls the situation. Balakovo citizens, in their absolute majority, came out under the Russian flag against the putschists. [video cuts to show Ryazanov interviewing unidentified TV official and another man]

[Begin video recording] [Ryazanov] What is the extent of your broadcasting?

[Official] Currently we are test broadcasting for four and one-half hours, three times per week.

[Ryazanov] What is the per minute cost?

[Official] That is a trade secret.

[Ryazanov] The question has come up as to what you get out of commercial television. Have you invested in it?

[Man] Everything has been developing according to plan. Its funding is secure, and large profits will follow. [end video recording]

[Ryazanov] So, private business in Balakovo is on the rise, but what about state industry? First, there is the power industry, the leading industry. Every enterprise is a giant. Three generating units at the Balakovo AES [nuclear electric power station] supply power to houses and workplaces, to a minimum of 10 million people.

That is today, but how about tomorrow? Lately we are are being threatened with cold and starvation. Disintegrative processes are at work in the country whether we want them or not. The power industry is ailing, particularly the nuclear power industry. But what can we do? We have to keep working. Fall and winter, seasons of peak energy demands, are coming. What is your prognosis?

[Begin video recording] [P.L. Ipatov, director of the Balakovo AES] One cannot operate nuclear power stations today the way they were operated in the past. We need new forms and new approaches. The French state company, Elektroset de France, which produces 75 percent of electrical energy in nuclear power stations, could be an example to us.

[Ryazanov] How would it be useful to us, for example?

[Ipatov] Some of the functions are centralized; this is principally for safety reasons. The rest...[changes thought] first, the economy of the enterprise is now left to the enterprise itself.

[Ryazanov] Naturally. About the cost, the price of electricity—what will it cost?

[Ipatov] I think in this case prices will be set by contract. [end video recording]

[Ryazanov] Lithuania, the Russian Federation, and the Ukraine have their own decisions to make. They have functioning AES's in their territories. But nothing has been set yet with regard to a joint effort. In Balakovo they concern themselves with their own needs. By the beginning of October all preventative and maintenance work will be complete.

Chechen-Ingush Groups React to New Election Law

OW0310050991 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2100 GMT 2 Oct 91

[From the "Soviet Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chechen-Ingush trade unions and many other civic groups in the republic have spoken out against the new presidential election law published yesterday (1st October) in the newspaper "VOICE OF CHECHENO-INGUSHETIA", reports an "INTERFAX" correspondent. The law states that henceforth the republic will be known as the Chechen Republic. The fact that nobody has put their signature to the new law has caused public bewilderment, says the correspondent. There is also no date indicating when the law was passed by an official body. Judging by the number of draft laws published in the republic and bearing the signature of the president of the Supreme Council of the Chechen Republic, Akhmadov, it is assumed that the law was passed by this council. However, one group of council members declared that they had never seen drafts of the law.

Musa Dudaev, a member of the legislative subcommittee of the Executive Committee of the Pan-National Congress of the Chechen People said that his committee also knew nothing of the preparation and passing of the law.

At the same time supporters of the law justify the renaming of the republic, saying that the Congress of Deputies (of all levels) of the Ingushetian People has declared the independence of the republic of Ingushetia. A third group has called for a boycott of the presidential elections, scheduled for 19th October.

Our correspondent reports that the situation in the republic remains tense and unclear.

Government Approves Free Economic Zone in Chita

OW0310043791 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2254 GMT 2 Oct 91

[From the "Soviet Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's government approved the project of Dauria, a free economic zone [FEZ] to be established in Chita Region, East Siberia. The document lays down the zone's juridical regime and organisation which is likely to attract foreign capital.

The new FEZ gets an easy tax regime for five years, including a 25 percent cap on corporate income profit tax.

Crimean Committee Asks Gorbachev To Make Decision

LD0210141491 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2100 GMT 1 Oct 91

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The Crimean Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic Council of Ministers Committee for Deported Peoples Affairs today turned to President Gorbachev with a request to accelerate a decision on the question of the return of Crimean Tatars to Crimean Oblast.

Komi Republic Leaders To Meet With Opposition

OW0210223291 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1530 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Talks will begin in Vorkuta Oct 3 between the chairman of the Komi Republic's Supreme Soviet Yuriy Spiridonov and the leaders of the Vorkuta branch of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Democratic Party, also organisations united in the movement Democratic Russia, the city workers' strike committee, and the independent miners' union. At the congress of the democratic forces of the Komi Republic held Sept 21-22 in Syktyvkar all those bodies gave a nonconfidence vote to the Supreme Soviet and Council of Ministers of their republic.

Krasnoyarsk Citizens Protest Shortages, Crime

LD0210051391 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1212 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Report by Leonid Feldman from Krasnoyarsk]

[Text] Thousands of passengers have gathered at bus stops. All municipal road transport has accumulated on (Nikel) embankment. Drivers have gone on strike again. The peak of indignation gradually shifted to the building of the Krasnoyarsk City Soviet, where a routine session of the city executive committee was due to open. Those gathered in front of the building were mainly women. Having blocked off the entrance, they stopped deputies

to tell them all their accumulated woes. They certainly had plenty to say: For several months now no sugar vouchers have been issued; butter is periodically unavailable, prices for children's goods are exhorbitant, and the crime rate is rising. Literally on the eve of the session, a frightening crime was committed in Krasnoyarsk. Two young girls were raped and murdered. The investigation into the case is as yet getting nowhere.

The spontaneous indignation of hundreds of citizens gradually took the form of a rally. One after the other, people of Krasnoyarsk demanded the resignation of the city's present leadership, the election of a new leadership, and the adoption of emergency measures to ensure order and to provide residents with essential foodstuffs and manufactured goods.

The transport drivers of Krasnoyarsk also put their demands to deputies. Fundamentally, they are: to transfer all passenger road transport to a leasing system and to make it all municipal property; the resignation of the present management of the Krasnoyarsk Autotrans territorial directorate, and the reinstatement of all organizers and instigators of last year's transport strike. The session of the city's soviet of people's deputies, which opened considerably late, has begun examining all the problems put before it. The drivers' strike continues.

Sugar 'Riots' in Perm; Transport Vehicles Hijacked

LD0210211891 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1800 GMT 2 Oct 91

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Sugar riots have begun in Perm. The city's residents are hijacking public transportation vehicles and declaring that they will hold them until sugar appears in the stores.

Moscow Interior Directorate Head Submits Program

LD0210122791 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Arkadiy Murashov, the latest head of the Main Directorate of Moscow's Internal Affairs, spoke to journalists today. Correspondent Georgiy Sovtsov gave us the details over the phone:

[Sovtsov] Let me briefly remind you that the crux of the conflict between the mayor's office and the Moscow City Soviet was the issue of the appointment of the head of the Main Directorate of Internal Affairs. Deputies, as you know, went on hunger strike for General Komissarov, while Popov and the Russian Internal Affairs minister went ahead and appointed Murashov anyway. Incidentally, this happened exactly a week ago, on 25 September. Whereas on 25 September it was the general who spoke to journalists, today it was the thermophysicist. Arkadiy Nikolayevich was prevented from replying to the question of whether his appointment was legal by deputies. They tried to turn the briefing into a sitting of the Moscow City Soviet.

After a brief speech by the new head of the Main Directorate of Internal Affairs, it became clear that he represents definite political forces, which does not exactly tie in with the declared aim of depoliticizing the Internal Affairs bodies. The new Main Directorate of Internal Affairs will, henceforce, be subordinate to the mayor's office alone. Murashov did not give a negative response to a question as to the truth of the claim that there is already a whole bunch of leading bodies of the Moscow Main Directorate of Internal Affairs signed by Gavriil Popov, though he cracked a joke to the effect that every day a new list is published there.

The main points of his program are: overcoming bureaucracy; second, the problem of pay; third, career prospects for the lowest grades; and fourth, technical refurbishment.

Pro-Socialist Left-Wingers Hold Conference 1 Oct

OW0210004591 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2025 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A group of activists met in Moscow's hotel Rossiya on Tuesday to prepare the unification of all "pro-socialist left-wing forces" of the country. The group's statement disseminated on the same day urged to start work "to create on the basis of progressive forces in the CPSU, a new party that would consolidate pro-socialist left-wing forces as the Communist Party had outlived its usefulness."

The statement signed by well-known leaders including USSR and Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic People's Deputies Anatoliy Denisov, Aleksandr Nikonov, Roy Medvedev, and Vitali Sevostyanov says that "the ideology of the new Russian party will be based on the ideas that were reflected in the draft CPSU programme: "Socialism, democracy, progress." "The truly democratic forces of Russia will get a new ally in the party," says the statement.

The document usges all those who share the views of the organizing committee to set up regional committees and to prepare for a republican constituent conference in late October.

Novgorod Soviet Discusses Free Economic Zone

PM0210102591 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 26 Sep 91 Single Edition p 1

[TASS report under "In Brief" rubric: "Free Zone in Novgorod"]

[Text] A session of Novgorod Oblast Soviet of People's Deputies has discussed the question of the "Sadko" free economic zone. Regulations on this zone, the concept for

which was formulated by Moscow and Novgorod scientists, were ratified by leaders of the Russian Federation 9 July this year.

Picketers Oppose Lenin's Burial in St. Petersburg

OW0210133491 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1145 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Since Monday activists of several human rights and political associations of St. Petersburg have been picketing the City Hall where the City Council is holding its session. They are protesting against the initiative of Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak to bury Lenin at the Volkov cemetery in St. Petersburg.

St. Petersburg To Begin Daily TV Programs

LD0310084891 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2100 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] The St. Petersburg office of the Russian Television and Radio Company stated on 2 October that as of 8 October, daily news programs will begin on St. Petersburg television. They will be prepared by the Russian television correpondents based in St. Petersburg and are intended to cover events in the country and in the world, but from St. Petersburg's angle.

Stavropol Urges Yeltsin To Send in Administrator

LD0110210591 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1300 GMT 1 Oct 91

[From the "Television News Service" program]

[Text] A group of deputies in Stavropol Kray Soviet have appealed to Boris Yeltsin to send in a territorial adminstrator. The reason for the conflict, in the deputies' view, lies in the kray leadership's adherence to the old line which is blocking decrees by the Russian president.

Sverdlovsk Manufacturer To Become Shareholder

OW0210011191 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2300 GMT 1 Oct 91

[From the "Soviet Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Located in the city of Sverdlovsk, the Urals, Uralmash, this country's biggest manufacturer of equipment for the steel, mining and oil industries, will become an open-end shareholder company. The Uralmash holding company will have a controlling interest in the new firm, and its stock will be for sale to both Soviet and foreign companies and individuals.

Uralmash, whose employment rolls include 40,000 people, will be privatized in stages; ultimately, the works will be converted into several autonomous shareholder companies. Its total authorized capital stock, including the works' fixed assets, is expected to be equal to 1 mn. Rbs. [million rubles].

The new administrative structure is expected to be in place by early 1992.

Tatarstan Legislators Want Early General Elections

LD0210132491 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0900 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] A group of MPs [Member of Parliament] in Tatarstan has called for early general elections in the republic. In a statement they have released, it is underlined that only elections on a multiparty basis will make it possible to unravel the shackles of the Soviet Communist Party bureaucracy and to start drastic economic transformations. Earlier, the Tatar National Independence Party demanded the resignation of the republic's president, Mintimer Shaymiyev. It believes that the president, who supported the August failed coup, placed under threat the sovereignty of Tatarstan. Among the future possible candidates to presidency in the state of Tatarstan, residents named their countryman academician Roald Sagdeyev, who is a big authority on space exploration.

Report Views Tatarstan Political Situation

PM0210115591 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 1 Oct 91 p 2

[Report by correspondent B. Vishnevskiy: "President Who Has Taken As Much Power As He Wanted"]

[Text] At a press conference in the Kazan Kremlin, the granddaughter of the former U.S. president, Mrs. Susan Eisenhower, broke the record for succinctness. To the question of how she would treat the nomination of her husband, USSR People's Deputy Academician Roald Sagdeyev as a candidate president of the republic of Tatarstan, she replied without beating about the bush: "I am ready." And although it was a case only of the next elections, and at these elections the chances of the renowned local boy were nil (one of the pre-election requirements is to have lived in the republic for at least 10 years), there was a considerable stir. Some people were already outlining dizzying prospects for capitalization. Others cited figures and names. How many millions of dollars in the kitty would the couple place on the altar of a sovereign fatherland. And which world luminaries would they invite to the Presidential Council....

All this would be funny were it not symptomatic. The wave of patriotism which has swept the republic in the wake of the election of the first president, M. Shaymiyev, was dashed against the three days in August, sowing confusion and dissatisfaction in people's souls. Oh, if only those days could be struck from our lives! Even the Tatar SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet did not withstand this naive temptation. The first point of its resolution is: "Acknowledge that the Tatar SSR did

not support the state coup." Acknowledge it? That would be a good thing, but how? If parliament has by a majority of votes rejected the idea of creating a commission and consequently the actual investigation of "the facts which occurred." Moreover, the session justified the revival of political censorship introduced during the days of the putsch. And finally (on exactly the same day as an opposite decision of the Tatar SSR Supreme Soviet) it recognized the illegality of suspending the CPSU's activity in Tatarstan.

Reflecting the will of some voters, parliament forgot about others. And they started to speak for themselves. The Tatar National Independence Party—"Ittifak"—was the first to demand the president's resignation. Its political statement published at the height of the August events sounded as a stern sentence: "In defending dictatorship the president has threatened Tatarstan's sovereignty and disgraced his people before the world democratic public." The collection of signatures was joined by a motley mix of democrats—from Democratic Russia to the multinational "Soglasiye," the Bulgarian National Congress, anarchists, and simply nonparty volunteers. The "Afghans" rose up in Almetyevsk City, the center of the oil district. To the round the clock pickets on the central square and the compilation of lists, subject to obstruction [as published], was added the protest hunger strike of I. Gimatov, editor of the local newspaper ZNAMYA TRUDA. Incidentally, the only newspaper in Tatarstan to have printed uninterruptedly in those days the documents of the Russian Government. In protest against the militia's reprisals against a student demonstration which had come to the defense of the legal government, Professor Yu. Konoplev of Kazan University left the Presidential Council and the ranks of the CPSU. Finally B. Lukoyanov, senior investigator at the Tatar SSR Prosecutor's Office, in an atmosphere of universal confusion, tried to fill the legal vacuum. But the criminal proceedings he instituted were not recorded in the prosecutor's office. And the case was formulated as follows: "On instances of the organized activity by Tatarstan officials promoting the plot to seize power in the USSR..."

In brief, the layout of political forces appeared extremely clearly. On the one hand, the president and parliament elected by the entire people. On the other the formerly small but growing opposition united by the August "insight." The former had in their hands all the levers of power and "reliance on the people"—in the form of a ramified and well organized All-Union Tatar Social Center. The latter had their righteous indignation and readiness to "stand to the end," using the experience of the parliamentary struggle of the Democratic Party of Russia and the platform of the free-thinking newspaper VECHERNYAYA KAZAN. There is also a third force. It is the apathetic majority, oppressed by advancing poverty and the politicians' empty promises.

Actually, this "standard triangle," which eloquently describes the state of democracy in Tatarstan, has its own features. For instance, are the president's ranks that close today? In early September the former party press leveled a whole series of accusations against M. Shaymiyev, who had suspended his CPSU membership. Ultimately these accusations came down to the head of state's lack of "a long-term state policy." The author of the item—the now unemployed candidate of philosophical sciences R. Khakimov—until recently headed the ideological commission of the party republic committee and remains the chief ideologist of the All-Union Tatar Social Center. At a recent meeting with journalists and leaders of sociopolitical movements, M. Sabirov, chairman of the Tatar SSR Cabinet of Ministers, also demonstrated his isolated independent position. The program of radical economic reforms which he submitted looked good against the background of the progressing crisis. It looks as though the "year-long barrenness" of the long-awaited sovereignty has begun to worry even its staunchest defenders. And again the reasons for this were linked with the lack of resolve of the first leader.

Does this mean that the flanks may merge? And that the president, given the accelerated dynamics of events, will have left only a power vacuum? I would not start anticipating events, but would draw attention to the following fact. Recently a group of people's deputies of the Tatar SSR and the Kazan City Soviet who form the center of the democratic opposition appealed in print to the people. They urged them "to seek by all legal means the resignation of the president and cabinet of ministers and the chairman and presidium of the Tatar SSR Supreme Soviet and the holding of a referendum on confidence in the Supreme Soviet." Because "only early democratic elections on a multiparty basis will make it possible to cast off the putsch of the CPSU nomenklatura and embark on radical economic transformations in Tatarstan."

And so let us overthrow the old authorities. Let us elect new ones. And finally, finally, let us start to live like human beings. For all the romantic simplicity of this task (it has been resolved, and frequently at that, but there have been no results) realists see it with all kinds of unknowns. Will parliament vote against the president? Will there be a referendum on confidence in in the authorities? Let us for a minute postulate the improbable and answer these questions in the affirmative. Then we can go on. Will a government of popular confidence be formed? If the people can name at best six surnames. (And of the five alternative candidates who competed against the president in the recent election campaign not one achieved the minimum starting level). And if the elections are hung and anarchy looms?

Whichever way you turn, it will not work without guarantees. Guarantees are needed, but which ones? Mrs. Eisenhower, Academician Sagdeyev, and G. Starovoytova, the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] president's adviser and a deputy of the USSR and the RSFSR, who was the focus of attention at that press conference, each gave their own reply. With one common denominator—a call for a sense of reality. But the reality, in particular, is as follows. It so happened

that recently, after four years of desperate struggle for land, a certain farmer finally became a fully entitled owner. He received hectares of land near Kazan. But he got the "OK" from Moscow, from Yeltsin. And in his "family parliament" it must be said there now reigns an enviable unanimity.

Vorkuta Teachers, Railway Workers Threaten Strike

OW0210221191 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1530 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Vorkuta's education workers have announced their intention to hold a two-hour token strike Oct 12. A final decision will be taken on the issue Oct 10 at the city conference of schools, vocational colleges, and kindergartens. Russia's government guarantees them wages up to 3,000-3,500 roubles a month, as well as better housing and living conditions. They also insist on a financial inspection of the cooperatives set up on their railway.

Draft Constitution May Be Submitted by 4 Oct

OW0310035691 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2100 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The senior secretary of the Constitutional Commission of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Congress of Peoples' Deputies, Oleg Rumyantsev, has said that in his opinion work on the planned constitution is drawing to a close. He said today (Wednesday) that the members of the commission wanted to distribute the agreed draft constitution to members of the Russian parliament by Friday.

However, yesterday the work of the commission was marked by serious disagreements over the question of the subjects of the Federation.

The leader of the "Russian Communists" group of deputies, Yuriy Slobodkin, announced that the most reactionary option had been chosen. This faction intend to base its activities on the alternative constitution it prepared itself.

The Yakutiyan president on the Constitutional Commission, Mikhail Nikolayev, announced in an interview with "INTERFAX" that Yakutiya was not intending to participate further in the work of the commission while its meetings were run by Rumyantsev. He accused Rumyantsev of ignoring Yakutiya's position on the question of the administrative-territorial structure of the Russian Federation.

Mr. Nikolayev thinks it possible that such disagreements in the work of the commission will lead to an impasse.

External Affairs

Parliament To Defend Rights of Ethnic Russians

OW0210125991 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1145 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian parliament considers it its moral duty to assume the historical responsibility to defend the rights and legitimate interests of Russian-speaking ethnic minorities. This is said in a draft appeal to the parliaments of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Belorussia, Kazakhstan, Kirgizia, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenia, Uzbekistan, the Ukraine and Estonia. The document was submitted to the House of Nationalities of the Russian parliament on Wednesday.

Now with the growing danger of the violation of the rights and lawful interests of Russian-speaking ethnic minorities in independent republics, the document says, the Russian parliament appeals to the parliaments of other republics to sign special bilateral agreements on the guarantees of the rights and freedoms of Russian-speaking minorities living in those republics.

Before such agreements are signed the parliament calls for taking every legal step to guarantee the rights of ethnic minorities and their free will in choice of citizenship and to allow dual citizenship.

Burbulis Says Dnestr Events Cause 'Grave Concern'

LD0210150891 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1250 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Moscow, 1 Oct (TASS)—Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Secretary of State Gennadiy Burbulis issued a statement, saying: "Recent events in the Dnestr region cause grave concern in the Russian Federation. The situation in this region has been specially studied by members of the RSFSR president's State Council.

"As history has shown, trying to solve such conflicts by force, by methods of confrontation have never brought the desired results to either side. This is the path to a dead end.

"The state councillors of the Russian Federation call upon all sides involved in the conflict to display political and human wisdom, to refrain from violence, to make their actions accord with the norms of international law, and to conduct things in a civilized manner. We must stress that obstructing deputies in fulfilling their duties and breaching deputies' immunity are regarded all over the world as totally unacceptable actions.

"We hope that the sides will find it possible in the immediate future to sit down at the negotiating table and to resolve the existing contradictions by means of conciliation.

"Should the sides agree, it would be possible to consider the question of the participation of representatives of the Russian Federation in these talks as intermediaries."

Zhirinovskiy Supports Sending Volunteers To Help

OW0210131091 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1145 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The head of the Liberal-Democratic Party Vladimir Zhirinovskiy has spoken for sending Russian volunteers "to lands where Russian blood is shed, where the honor and dignity of Great Russians are trampled on." He spoke at a conference of the Moscow chapter of his party.

As an example he named the developments in Moldova where large-scale dismissals of Russians are conducted from government bodies, scientific and educational institutions. "Employees are fired on various pretexts, but there is only one reason: that they are Russians."

On Wednesday Zhirinovskiy is leaving for Helsinki at the invitation of Finnish business circles.

International Affairs

St. Petersburg, Estonia Border Issues Resolved

PM0210091091 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Sep 91 Single Edition p 2

[Report on interview with V. Gustov, chairman of Kingisepp City Soviet, by PRAVDA correspondent N. Volynskiy under "Topical Interview" rubric; place and date not given: "There Will Also Be Russian Customs Posts"]

[Text] St. Petersburg—The Estonian authorities' decision to repeal the Estonian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet Presidium's resolutions of 1945, 1946, and 1957 has caused profound alarm among inhabitants of border regions of St. Petersburg Oblast. The current borders were established between Estonia and Leningrad Oblast in accordance with these documents. Thus the 1920 Tartu peace treaty comes into force. According to this, the border between Estonia and Soviet Russia ran through the territory of Leningrad Oblast in the vicinity of the village of Komarovka. Lands belonging to several rural soviets were under the jurisdiction of the neighboring state and, most important of all, so was Ivan-Gorod, which today has a population of 12,500. We asked Kingisepp City Soviet Chairman V. Gustov to tell us about the current border situation.

"An extraordinary session of the Ivan-Gorod Soviet was held 10 September in Ivan-Gorod, at which an appeal to Russian President B. Yeltsin and RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet acting Chairman R. Khasbulatov was adopted. In particular, the deputies reminded them that Ivan-Gorod is age-old Russian territory and that the Estonian side cannot lay claim to it. Moreover, a meeting has been held between a delegation from St. Petersburg and its oblast and Estonian Government representatives. After lengthy discussion a temporary protocol on the life and activity of the border regions was signed. The protocol is valid until the treaty between the Russian Federation and the Estonian Republic comes into force. We also came to an agreement about border zone procedures. I will state the main point: We will have to set up our own customs posts—on the Leningrad Oblast side. Because prices and pay have gone up in Estonia, hundreds of vehicles carrying our relatively cheap food, construction materials, raw materials, and consumer goods go there daily from Leningrad Oblast. In addition, provision is also being made for other aspects of border cooperation.

"But the main problem," V. Gustov continued, "is what sort of relations there should be between Estonian Narva and Russian Ivan-Gorod. This is basically a single inhabited locality. Even if they are split by an economic organism. All Ivan-Gorod's drinking water and 30 percent of its heat come from Narva, and the bread is baked there. This was how the planned development of the two settlements grew up, to the convenience of both sides. Now an extremely acute problem has arisen: Dividing them means cutting a living organism in two. The protocol envisages the establishment of a special commission to resolve a whole set of questions. In the main, however, our position is as follows—the borders should remain unchanged, we will not consider any territorial claims."

Sakhalin Chairman Urges Referendum on Kurils

LD0210131791 Moscow TASS in English 1302 GMT 2 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Yevgeny Belovitski]

[Text] Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk October 2 TASS—A referendum on the future of the four disputed Kuril Islands should be held on November 24 among the people of Sakhalin, chairman of the Sakhalin Soviet Valentin Fyodorov demanded. He called on the population of the island to stage actions of protest against handing the islands over to the Japanese. He called on all Soviet Far Eastern leaders to take a firm stance on keeping the territories Soviet.

Fyodorov enjoys a mild support to his demands only from the Sakhalin soviet presidium so far.

Chinese Fishermen Increase Border Assaults

OW0310001691 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1530 GMT 3 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Sept 30—Three Chinese boats with 15 fishermen aboard crossed the Amur River under the cover of a rainy night, moored at Soviet fishermen's camp and robbed it. The raiders carried off the catch of salmon, the nets, pots and pans, and other possessions of the Soviet fishermen who were at the time away on the more distant fishing grounds—report the local papers.

The border guards admit that Chinese fishermen have been more and more often violating the frontier with increasing daring. They brawl with their Soviet counterparts and generally behave defiantly.

The Chinese fishermen may have exhausted their fishing grounds which probably leads them to seek other sources of livelihood.

Khasbulatov, German Industry Chairman Hold Talks

Says Embassy To Open in Berlin

LD0210092291 Berlin ADN in German 0842 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow (ADN)— Russia intends to open an embassy in Berlin. This was revealed by Ruslan Khasbulatov, acting president of the Russian Supreme Soviet, to Otto Wolff von Amerongen, the president of the Eastern Committee of German Industry, in talks in Moscow. A Russian trade mission is to be established in Cologne.

Discusses Economic Cooperation

LD0210152391 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1730 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow, 1 Oct (TASS)—Acting Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov had a meeting today with Otto Wolff von Amerongen, chairman of the Eastern Committee of German Industry, in the Russian House of Soviets. According to the report of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet Presidium press center, the interlocutors devoted special attention to discussing the questions of economic cooperation between the Russian Federation and the FRG, including development of ties on the level of private forms of enterprise. Considering the FRG experience in the sphere of privatization of the economy as well as traditionally close ties between the RSFSR and Germany, participants in the meeting expressed mutual interest in attracting German capital into the Russian Federation's economy. RSFSR Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and Sergey Krasavchenko, chairman of the committee for economic reform and property, also took part in the meeting.

Rutskoy Receives Austrian Chancellor Vranitzky

Views Bilateral Relations

AU0110213991 Vienna Oesterreich Eins Radio Network in German 1100 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Report by Susanne Scholl from Moscow—recorded]

[Text] Chancellor Vranitzky's talk with Russian Vice President Rutskoy took twice as long as originally planned. After they had negotiated for more than two hours, Rutskoy said that he had already received many foreign guests in the White House, but there have been none with whom talks were as interesting and fruitful as with Vranitzky.

Chancellor Vranitzky stated that they basically agreed on the establishment of an Austrian-Russian expert group, which is to promote the intensification and, above all, expansion of relations between Austria and the Russian Federation. In the current situation, Vranitzky added, one must not simply wait to see how things develop in the former Soviet Union and the former republics.

Tomorrow in Baykonur the chancellor will have the opportunity to meet with other republic presidents and to discuss the shape of future bilateral relations with Austria. The Russian Federation plays a priority role, in the view of the Austrian side.

Rutskoy then presented his version of what interrepublic relations should be like in the future. He believes that first a political agreement must be signed by those republics that want to stay within some sort of union. Whether there are three or five republics that sign such an agreement at first is not important, he said. Afterward an internal economic agreement must be worked out, and only then should the economic relations be cleared up with the republics that want to stay outside the Union. These relations must then be shaped on the basis of international regulations and world market prices, because, after all, Russia cannot feed everyone.

A political agreement, as he envisages, could be signed tomorrow, Rutskoy continued. He does not see any difficulties in this respect. It is important, however, that something be done soon, because he must say frankly that he is ashamed when he goes out into the streets because he still cannot offer any specific new program to the people.

As regards relations with Austria, Rutskoy added, he believes that these will develop excellently. He himself will personally brief Boris Yeltsin, who is vacationing in Sochiy, on the meeting with Chancellor Vranitzky today.

Pledges Active Role in Affairs

LD0110141291 Moscow TASS in English 1238 GMT 1 Oct 91

[By TASS corrrespondent Gennady Talalyev]

[Text] Moscow October 1 TASS—Russia's Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy and visiting Chancellor Franz Vranitzky of Austria today agreed to work out a direct treaty between Russia and Austria.

The agreement was reached as a result of two hours of talks in the Russian parliament building.

In a conversation with journalists after the end of the talks, the vice-president said the sides had decided to set up groups of experts representing the parliaments, cabinets of ministers and foreign ministries of the two countries to work out a comprehensive system of bilateral relations in different fields, which will form the basis for the direct treaty between Russia and Austria.

Programmes of cooperative efforts in the food, housing and energy fields will be worked out as the first step.

"We reached full mutual understanding," Aleksandr Rutskoy said.

"Austria has always proceeded from regarding the Soviet Union as a long-term partner," Vranitzky told journalists. At present your country is going through a transition period, but we have no intention of remaining on the sidelines, we want to interact with you most actively and thus contribute to the stabilization of the situation both in the Soviet Union as a whole and in Russia.

Kozyrev Arrives in Rome for International Seminar

LD2909141991 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1345 GMT 29 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Dmitriy Polunin]

[Excerpts] Rome, 29 Sep (TASS)—The foreign minister of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR], Andrey Kozyrev, today arrived in the Italian capital at the invitation of the Roman university La Sapienza. He will take part in an international seminar on "The Ruble, the Dollar, and the ECU: Prospects for Mutual Economic Links" organized by the university's Faculty of Economics and Trade.

The chairman of the Italian Council of Ministers, Giulio Andreotti, is expected to address the seminar. [passage omitted] Also attending are the chairman of the international affairs and external economic ties committee of the RSFSR Supreme Sovet, Vladimir Lukin, and the mayor of St. Petersburg, Anatoliy Sobchak.

Hands Yeltsin Message to Andreotti

LD0210102891 Moscow TASS in English 1700 GMT 2 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Aleksey Golyayev]

[Text] Rome October 1 TASS—Italy's Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti today met visiting Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, who handed over to the head of the Italian Government a personal message from the Russian president, Boris Yeltsin.

After talks in the Chigi Palace, the residence of the Italian prime minister, Kozyrev told TASS that Yeltsin's message to Andreotti was intended to continue the summit-level dialogue between Russia and Italy.

"Andreotti," he said, "expressed understanding of the desire to renew very close historical ties between Russians and Italians. He also stressed the idea, expressed in Yeltsin's message, that now the need is there to fill direct links in the economic and cultural fields with specific substance and make a more active use of this potential. We have a great number of interesting projects and proposals for cooperation. Work is underway in this direction and it will receive its greatest impulse during Boris Yeltsin's forthcoming visit to Italy tentatively set for the end of this year or the very beginning of the next year".

Regarding economic cooperation, Kozyrev said, the thing in question is to raise the already existing links to a new level, consider ways to apply Western experience and knowledge to the development of our economy and stimulate direct investments in our economy.

Kozyrev said the West's attitude to the Soviet Union had changed lately. Earlier, Western politicians and entrepreneurs mainly asked questions, often rooted in distrust, about what and how we want to reform, now they have no doubts that the reform movement is very strong, especially in Russia.

A joint search is now going on for ways to implement these plans. I think that this is a very positive phenomenon, the Russian foreign minister said.

We do not need a simplified approach, we need serious work to find ways to undo very many knots.

Kozyrev also met chairman of the Italian Parliament's Senate Giovanni Spadolini.

Rumyantsev Departs for UK Labor Party Conference

PM0210145691 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 1 Oct 91 p 1

[Report from RIA, TASS, ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA "News" roundup: "Rumyantsev in London"]

[Text] On an invitation from the leadership of the UK Labor Party, USSR People's Deputy Oleg Rumyantsev, leader of the Russian Social Democrats, has left to take part in the annual labor conference. This short working visit is one sign of the establishment of working ties between West European and Russian Social Democrats.

Belorussia

German Foreign Minister, Republic Delegation Meet

LD0210135891 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belorussian 1825 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Summary] BELTA received a report from New York saying that Belarus and Germany held their first official meeting in the residence near the UN Headquarters. German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher paid serious attention to the prospects of Belarus' relations with the center and with other Union republics. The German Consulate's operations in Minsk, as well as a visit by the German foreign minister to the Belarusan capital on a date to be agreed upon later, were discussed. The meeting took place in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

Talks Held With Lithuanian Delegation on Ties

LD0210143591 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Belorussian 2020 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Groups of officials from Lithuania and Belarus met in Minsk yesterday [30 September] to prepare an agreement on interstate relations between the Lithuanian republic and Belarus. The Lithuanian delegation was headed by Katkus, first deputy foreign minister and the Belarusan delegation was headed by deputy foreign minister [name indistinct]. The sides discussed the spheres for which working groups will be set up, including the economy, ecology, customs, consulates, social protection, national minorities, humanities, culture, and science. The next meeting will take place in Vilnius soon.

Decision To Organize Separate Defense, Security

PM0210103991 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Sep 91 First Edition p 5

[Report by Ye. Gorelik under "Direct Line" rubric: "Belarus Army Being Formed"]

[Text] Mensk—The Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus has adopted a decision to organize a separate defense and national security system. Deputies have agreed to start preparing for the formation of a Belarusan Army.

According to a concept for the formation of republic armed forces elaborated by Major General A. Vladimirov and Major S. Pranov, it is intended that the future president of the republic will be the supreme commander. Foreign political activity will be based on the principles of refusal to resort to force or the threat of force, recognition of the inviolability of existing borders, and the absence of territorial claims on other contiguous states. The concept says that Belarus is not aiming to play the role of a great power and does not have global interests that would require protection by military means.

Deputies also voted in support of the creation of separate border and customs services. The civil defense system and military commissariats have been placed under the authority of the republic Council of Ministers.

A resolution was adopted on the procedure for the performance of compulsory military service by people drafted from Belarus territory. As of autumn this year, draftees will serve on the republic's territory; they will only serve outside its borders if they so wish, but only in the USSR Armed Forces.

Future of Communist Party Deferred to 15 Oct

OW0210224891 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2100 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The question of the future of the republican Communist Party has been deferred to the next session of the Belarusan Supreme Soviet, planned for 15th October. An INTERFAX correspondent reports that the decision was taken after a rather heated and inconclusive debate between the parliamentary majority and the opposition Popular Front group on Tuesday.

The opposition proposed the banning of the activity of the Communist Party and the nationalisation of its property. The majority party, however, was in favour of the voluntary self-dissolution of the party and many deputies thought that this would require the communists taking time for a plenary session of the party of an extraordinary congress.

However, neither of this proposals won sufficient votes.

On Wednesday [2 October] the Supreme Soviet moved on to discuss Belarus' foreign policy strategy.

Ukraine

Kravchuk Interviewed on Results of Canadian Talks

PM0210104491 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Sep 91 Single Edition p 3

[Report by PRAVDA correspondent V. Shelkov including interview with L.M. Kravchuk, Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Chairman in Ottawa—date of interview not stated: "Guys From Canada Promise Assistance"]

[Text] Ottawa—L.M. Kravchuk, chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet, visited Canada at the invitation of J. Fraser, speaker of the Canadian Parliament's House of Commons. The visit coincided with a significant date in the Ukrainian and Canadian peoples' history—the centennial of the start of Ukrainian emigration to the country across the ocean.

These historical links between the two peoples are given particular emphasis in the declaration on relations between Canada and the Ukraine signed during the course of the visit by Foreign Ministers B. McDougall

and A. Zlenko. The document also notes the desire of both sides to develop and deepen contacts at all levels and facilitate exchanges in the spheres of politics, economics, science, technology, education, sport, and so forth.

L.M. Kravchuk had conversations with Canadian Prime Minister B. Mulroney, Governor General R. Hnatyshyn, and Deputy Prime Minister D. Mazankowski. In Ottawa and Toronto there were meetings with other politicians at federal level and in Ontario province. The Ukrainian guests attached great significance to their contacts with the Canadian Ukrainian community, in particular with representatives of its commercial section, its businessmen.

After his meetings in Ott va were concluded I asked the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet chairman some questions.

'Shelkov] Leonid Makarovich, what aims have you set for yourselves during this visit?

[Kravchuk] We have two main aims. First, to tell Canadian politicians—and through the mass media this country's inhabitants—about what is happening in the Ukraine, about the changes at home, the changes in the country as a whole, and what prospects we have for development.

The second aim concerns the economy. We really have gotten into a very difficult position in all sectors. For example, this year we did not get the full amount of grain and we have to get credits for feed. We prepared a list of our interests for the Canadian Government and Canadian businessmen, and made several proposals for those sectors where we could first of all set up cooperation.

And as far as political aims are concerned, in other words our recognition, we did not raise this question before the Canadian government, and will not raise it in the United States where we are going after this. This is not now the most urgent question, either for us or for them—we need to hold the referendum! The fact of the referendum will mean that all processes have been put on a legal, constitutional, and international basis, and then no one will have to be entreated to recognize us.

[Shelkov] You have had meetings with the Canadian Ukrainian community here. What were your conversations about? And what impression did they make on you?

[Kravchuk] We had very good meetings. These really were the first contacts of their kind in history—between the Ukraine's leaders and Ukrainians living abroad. And all the principal organizations for Canadian Ukrainians were represented at these meetings. The main thing these meetings demonstrated was that Ukrainians living here support our policies with all their heart. And they want to play the most active part in laying down conditions so that things set off in such a way as to create an independent, democratic Ukraine—a state which, being the historical homeland of their forefathers, will represent their interests in Europe.

Officers Pledge Support to Republic Authorities

LD0210130691 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1000 GMT 2 Oct 91

[From the "Television News Service" newscast]

[Text] With the Ukraine's proclamation of independence, one of the essential conditions for reviving the state is considered here to be the formation of national armed forces. Morozov, the recently appointed republican defense minister, does not as yet have his own military formations. Officers, warrant officers, sergeants, and male soldiers of military unit 63-349, which comes under the jurisdiction of the Carpathian Military District, decided to be among the first to support Morozov. They sent a letter to Leonid Kravchuk, Ukrainian Supreme Soviet chairman, declaring their readiness to take an oath of loyalty to the Ukrainian people and the Ukrainian state. As for the indeterminate nature of their situation, the servicemen of this subunit insist on the need for the appropriate legislative acts to be drawn up and adopted without delay in the Ukraine. Various public organizations and the newly formed Union of Officers of the Ukraine had earlier appealed to the servicemen of the Ukraine to determine their status under the present circumstances. Incidentally, the decision on transfer to the jurisdiction of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet was adopted almost unanimously by the entire the regiment. Only one serviceman was against, and two abstained.

Military Equipment Transferred Without Permission

LD0310085391 Kiev Radio Kiev International Service in Ukrainian 2000 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] The transfer of military equipment to Russia has started from a military unit that is deployed in Nezhin, Chernigov oblast. The Nezhin procurator, who protested the actions of the military unit's commander, informed the press that redeployment of the military equipment is being carried out without the permission of the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers. More than 30 military vehicles of various types have already left for Russia.

Decision Adopted To Purchase Feed Grain Abroad

LD0210171291 Kiev Radio Kiev Network in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] The Ukraine Cabinet of Ministers has adopted a decision on purchasing forage grain and corn abroad. The republic's Ministry of Economy and Ministry of External Economic Relations, together with Ukraine's National Bank, have been charged with finding by 10 October this year U.S.$45-50 million for the overall sum of credits to pay for delivery of 2.5 millions tonnes of

forage grain and corn. Paying off the hard currency credits allocated by foreign banks for the purchase of forage grain and corn have to be ensured during 1992-93 by Ukraine's Ministry of Economy and Ministry of Finance.

The Ukraine State Committee for Customs Control has to prepare uninterrupted documentation and passage of forage grain, corn, and combined fodder, addressed to Ukraine's State Committee for Cereal Products.

Situation at Dubossary Reported 'More Stable'

AU0210170291 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1617 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 2/10/1991—The ROMPRES correspondent in the Republic of Moldova, Ion Costas [as received], told Radio Chisinau [Kishinev] that the situation at Dubossary was strictly controlled by the troops of the Ministry of the Interior. "About 1,500 of our officers and non-commissioned officers are there, patrols have been formed to survey the coming into and out of the town, the security of banks and other institutions has been ensured," said Mr. Costas.

"Measures were taken in the County of Dubossary and at Grigoriopol, and that the separatists' plans failed. The situation is growing more and more stable," mentioned the Moldovan minister of the interior.

Soviet Army Withdrawal From Dnestr 'Unacceptable'

PM0210110291 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Sep 91 Second Edition p 2

[Report by Captain Third Rank V. Yermolin: "The Army in the Dnestr Region"]

[Text] Particular attention is being focused on two documents produced during these September days.

The first was signed by leaders of the Dnestr region, and is entitled: "On the Armed Forces on the Territory of the Dnestr Moldovan SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic]." It states the intention "to consider the Moldovan Republic Presidential Decree on the Withdrawal of USSR Armed Forces and USSR MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] Internal Troops as having no force on Dnestr Moldovan SSR territory." It goes on: "...and to ask USSR President M.S. Gorbachev and the USSR Defense Ministry leadership to maintain the deployment of USSR Armed Forces on Dnestr Moldovan SSR territory."

The document was signed 11 September, and on 12 September the Officers' Assembly of one of the military units adopted an appeal to the officers of Tiraspol Garrison. In particular it declares: "Given the existing situation, the Congress of Dnestr Moldovan SSR People's Deputies at all levels adopted the decision to create a republic guard. In line with the Law on the Republic Guard, it will—should the need arise—be placed under the jurisdiction of the USSR Armed Forces Supreme Command. In the existing situation, we consider the withdrawal of Soviet Army units from Dnestr region territory unacceptable..." It became known to the editorial team that at this juncture all subdivisions stationed in Tiraspol and a number of other regions and cities in the Dnestr region have joined the appeal.

It is obvious that in itself the depoliticization process, which was "launched" in the Army and Navy by corresponding USSR presidential decrees, is unable to force uniformed individuals to "ignore" life around them, especially when people are crying out all around you and the pain and fear is never-ending. You can theorize as much as you like on the relationship between military duty and conscience, and on a serviceman's rights—or lack of them—as a citizen, but if statesmen in today's new Union power structures headed by the USSR president continue to be slow to adopt concrete decisions, then—judging by the said appeal—the Dnestr region military units are unlikely to be able to keep a cool head in these days of general discontent.

A few days ago, representatives from Moldova's Left Bank came to the editorial office. By their evaluation, even after the Russian legislative commission's work here, all the necessary prerequisites for the outbreak of a bloody conflict remain.

Georgia

Gamaskhurdia Speaks at Supreme Council Session

AU0210201391 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 20 Sep 91 p 1

[SAKINFORM report: "The Session of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Georgia"]

[Text] On 19 September, the second meeting of the second session of the Republic of Georgia Supreme Council of the first convocation began its work. Supreme Council deputies from the abolished Georgian Communist Party, members of the Cabinet of Ministers, and prefects of the republic's towns and rayons had been invited to attend.

Zviad Gamsakhurdia, president of the Republic of Georgia, participated in the work of the session.

The session was conducted by Akakiy Asatiani, chairman of the Republic of Georgia Supreme Council.

Immediately following the opening of the session, Deputy Irakliy Melashvili spoke; he read out a statement signed by a group of deputies on the creation of the parliamentary faction "Charter-91." In addition to himself, it includes the following members of the Supreme Council: Tedo Paatashvili, Gela Chorgolashvili, Tengiz Dikhamindzhiya, Merab Uridiya, Merab Kvanchilashvili, Gela Koberidze, and Merab Dvalishvili.

Deputy David Kupreishvili delivered a statement on behalf of the group of deputies representing the All-Georgian Merab Kostava Society. It contains a protest about the statement published in SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA on 17 September in which there is a rejection of the proposals advanced by this group for extricating the republic from the current political crisis.

Deputy David Arevadze stated, on behalf of the parliamentary faction "Democratic Center," that Georgian TV and radio had become the source for spreading disinformation to the population. Raising the question of the resignation of its leadership, he demanded that the Law on the Press and other Mass Media be strictly observed.

It took the deputies more than an hour to ratify the agenda. Following the introduction of appropriate changes and additions to it, the Supreme Council decided to divide it into two parts: political questions and economic questions. It was decided to examine the political questions on the first day of the session and the economic ones on the second day.

On the recommendation of Gia Pirtskhalaishvili, deputy chairman of the Credentials Committee and the Supreme Council Committee for Deputies' Ethics, the powers of Liya Andguladze, Georgiy Mardzhanishvili, and also Akakiy Kvitsiani as deputies were recognized.

The question of introducing additions to the Law on the Status of a Member of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Georgia became a subject for principled discussion. In view of the fact that this question had not been studied in advance by the Supreme Council Permanent Juridical Commission, examination of it was deferred. For the same reason, the examination of the question of the powers of deputies of the Republic of Georgia Supreme Council from the republic's abolished Communist Party was also deferred.

Zviad Gamsakhurdia, president of the Republic of Georgia, spoke on the subject of the political situation that had been created in the republic.

In particular, he stated that one should not place the blame for the current situation only on the opposition, as the republic's leadership should shoulder a part of it.

Regarding the critical remarks of the opposition addressed to the Government concerning the fact that privatization is not taking place and land reform is not being implemented, the president gave the folowing reminder: The adopted Law on Privatization takes effect on 1 October, while the Law on Land is being presented to the deputies for examination at today's meeting. The president added that it is possible that the appropriate Supreme Council commissions have been a little late in elaborating these acts. Therefore, the assertion by the opposition that the Georgian leadership is ostensibly not interested in implementing these reforms has no foundation.

In response to criticism concerning apparent restrictions regarding the mass media, the president named a number of opposition publications and expressed the idea of granting the opposition a slot in the official newspapers and of creating an alternative channel on television.

The president called upon the parliamentary opposition faction to engage in constructive dialogue and cooperation for the good of the motherland and suggested that they dissociate themselves from the destructive forces of the "street opposition" whose actions can only be called a breach of the law.

At the same time, the president reaffirmed his willingness to enter into dialogue with the nonparliamentary parties and political organizations and expressed the possibility of giving their representatives a voice in the Supreme Council.

The president said that the evolution of democratic values should occur in parallel with socioeconomic processes in our country and that, here, the supremacy of the law and its strict observance acquire decisive significance as, without respect for the law, there can be no democracy and no rule-of-law state.

On behalf of their political unions, parties, societies, and factions the following deputies delivered additional speeches on the question under discussion: Teymuraz

Koridze, Vazha Adamiya, Akakiy Asatiani, Vakhtang Tsagareishvili, Nemo Burchuladze, Nodar Natadze, Georgiy Mardzhanishvili, Emzar Goguadze, and Tedo Paatashvili. Deputies Avtandil Imnadze, Guram Petriashvili, and Maya Machavariani participated in the discussion that followed.

Mr. Zviad Gamsakhurdia answered a number of questions raised by deputies.

The session will continue on 20 September.

Opposition Formations Intent on Leaving Tbilisi

LD0310044491 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0327 GMT 3 Oct 91

[By correspondents Albert Kochetkov and Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[Text] Tbilisi, 3 Oct (TASS)—The armed formations of those opposed to the president of Georgia intend to leave the buildings and territory they control in Tbilisi. The proposal of the parliamentary opposition on the withdrawal of the armed formations from the city met with understanding from the leaders of a number of subunits. The deputies of the republic's Supreme Soviet reported this to journalists today.

The parliamentarians stressed that the National Guard headed by Tengiz Kitovani, which had refused to obey Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, and the militarized part of the members of the all-Georgian Mirab Kostav society, headed by Deputy Vazha Adamia, unilaterally agreed to leave the buildings and territories controlled by them in Tbilisi to stop further escalation of the dangerous confrontation.

At the same time, Tengiz Kitovani and Vazha Adamia stated that in the event of repressions against the opposition on the part of the official authorities, they will act in accordance with the situation.

In their turn, 49 deputies who are members of the opposition factions in the republic's Supreme Soviet made a joint statement today in which they accused the president of Georgia of exceeding his powers.

Zviad Gamsakhurdia, it notes in the statement, usurped power particularly when he made decisions on reorganizing the National Guard, on setting up the Council on National Security, and on introducing a state of emergency in Tbilisi without subsequent ratification of these decrees by parliament.

All this is sufficient grounds for holding a session of the Georgian Supreme Soviet at which the status of the National Guard should be discussed, stresses the deputies' statement.

Gamsakhurdia Supporters Blamed for News Blackout

OW0310033191 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2100 GMT 3 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Nodar Natadze, the leader of the Georgian Popular Front, has described the situation in the republic as "dangerous." In an interview with "iNTERFAX" he put forward the theory that "external forces trying to help President Zviad Gamsakhurdia wipe out the opposition" were behind the current events. Then in Natadze's view, Gamsakhurdia himself will be overthrown and replaced by a president willing to sign the Union treaty.

The leader of the Popular Front sharply criticised the president's policies, saying that they went "beyond the bounds of morality and the law". Nodar Natadze said that Gamsakhurdia's support comes from the politically ignorant masses. The recently established information black-out, especially the lack of freedom of speech on Georgian television, bears effective witness to this.

Mr. Natadze emphasised that the Popular Front demanded the resignation of President Gamsakhurdia. He said that he thought the country could avoid civil war.

Media 'Rigidly Controlled' by Gamsakhurdia

LD0210101191 Moscow TASS in English 0925 GMT 2 Oct 91

[By correspondents Albert Kochetkov and Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[Text] Tbilisi October 2 TASS—Georgian leaders announced on Tuesday the mourning in Georgia for those killed during an armed clash in Tbilisi on September 26 and for physician Giya Abesadze who set himself on fire in the centre of the city several days earlier. His self-immolation was in protest against confrontation between Georgians.

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On the same day representatives of work collectives and of a number of Georgian districts exchanged opinions with leaders of the opposition forces about the causes of the political crisis in the republic. The meeting was held in the building of the state television and radio department.

For over three hours, former Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua talked about economic, ideological, personnel and other blunders made by President Zviad Gamsakhurdia and his team and answered questions from participants in the meeting.

Much of what he said came as a revelation for the majority of those present. The Georgian mass media, as Sigua stressed, is rigidly controlled by the president.

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The House of the Union of Georgian Writers was surrounded by militia on Tuesday and it refused to admit writers. So the writers held a meeting in the street. Reporters were told this by writer Akakiy Vasadze.

New Clashes Reported; Gamsakhurdia Remarks Noted

AU0210130891 Paris AFP in English 1224 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Report by Bertrand de Saisset]

[Text] Tbilisi, Georgia, Oct 2 (AFP)—New shooting broke out Wednesday near the Georgian opposition's hold-out in Tbilisi's main television station, as time ran out towards Thursday's deadline ordering them to surrender arms. The exchange of automatic arms fire lasted 10 minutes, though there were no new reports of victims. It was the third such incident Sunday night, after a huge explosion damaged the building's entrance.

Georgia's embattled President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, who issued the ultimatum on Tuesday, showed no sign of compromise in a bitter new tirade Tuesday night, vowing that his enemies would be killed. He spoke before the open coffins of two loyalist National Guard members killed in clashes on September 25, to a crowd of 6,000 supporters outside his armed camp in the parliament building.

"Just think what they want to do to us," he said of the opposition, which accuses him of ruling Georgia like a dictator and stifling dissent. "They want to kill you all... Know that they are going to die, too."

The opposition, which is defended by rebel National Guards and led by former Georgian Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua, has rejected the president's decree, saying their arms were their only defense against arrest.

But in the first meeting of its kind since the crisis broke out a month ago, the opposition received a 40-member pro-government delegation, including workers, inside television headquarters Tuesday night. Sources said the delegation had come to "hear their point of view".

Sigua told them Gamsakhurdia was guilty of "political and economic errors" that had cost Georgia's economy "one billion roubles" (600 million dollars on the official exchange rate) in losses since the nationalist president took over last May.

He also charged that Gamsakhurdia's had surrounded himself with "incompetents" after some of his ministers left office following disagreements with the president. "As soon as someone has a criticism of the president, he immediately becomes a 'traitor to the cause of the people'," said Sigua.

Though members of the delegation said they were satisfied with the meeting when they left, they gave no other details.

The meeting had followed a tense moment outside the television building earlier Tuesday when a man in civilian clothing fired shots into the air as some 2,000 opposition supporters massed outside in one of their daily meetings since the conflict began.

The shots spread panic, and the man was seized by guards outside and forced into the building for what they called a "questioning" session. When the shots were fired, the crowd had been watching an opposition program on a screen set up outside the building which managed to broadcast for 45 minutes thanks to a makeshift transmitter. Though the opposition occupies the television building, the transmitting tower is still in the hands of presidential forces, giving the government—which already controls most newspapers here—control over virtually all the Georgian press.

At one point Tuesday evening, some 3,000 Gamsakhurdia supporters carried the two National Guards' coffins towards the TV station near the opposition supporters. It was the first time the two sides had been so physically close in such large number and for several minutes there were fears of a clash.

But the crowd dispersed after a key member of the opposition, poet Dzhansur Charkviani, urged supporters "not to let yourselves be conned into violence".

In another small sign of detente, Avenue Rustaveli, the capital's main boulevard, was reopened to private automobile traffic after being blocked since mid-September when Gamsakhurdia supporters set up barricades there.

Weapons Fire Said To Trigger Train Blast

OW0210122791 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1145 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Train-cars carrying ammunition exploded on Wednesday morning in Didube, a Tbilisi suburb. The army train was heading for Marneuli. Several persons were wounded, no exact figures have been reported.

According to reports from Didube, unidentified persons opened automatic fire at the train which caused the explosion.

The press center of the Georgian National Security Council has declared that "it was a premeditated act of sabotage aimed at destabilizing the situation in Georgia".

According to IF's [INTERFAX] correspondent, the explosion occurred at a short distance from a metro station and a bus terminal where hundreds of people were concentrated at the time of the blast.

Alternative Views Expressed

LD0210130991 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1211 GMT 2 Oct 91

[By correspondents Albert Kochetkov and Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[Text] Tbilisi, 2 Oct (TASS)—There are no fatalities and the number of injured and the scale of the damage are being clarified—that is the information that TASS correspondents were given by competent sources about explosions on a railway train this morning near the "Didube" underground station.

A Transcaucasian Military District representative confirmed that this was a military train carrying elements of armaments that could not go off on their own accord. Only the effects of a high temperature, that is to say of fire, could cause them to explode, he stated. He categorically rejected rumors that have spread through Tbilisi that the load could present a radiation or chemical hazard.

The Georgian president's press service presented the proposition that what happened could have been the result of an attack for the purpose of further destabilizing the situation in the republic's capital, but refrained from making specific accusations against anyone.

In turn, the town's military commandant press center for the duration of the Tbilisi state of emergency was unable to make any detailed comment on possible causes of what occurred and restricted themselves solely to the report that the explosions caused significant damage to cooperatives' stalls at the local bus station, which is near the metro station. Eyewitnesses are saying that the explosions threw missile shells out of the freight cars. They did not carry warheads—they were only casings with sustainer engines. Some of them flew off for a considerable distance, so the militia has now cordoned off the land around the metro station. Sappers have begun making the ammunition safe.

National Guard Commander Tengiz Kitovani, refusing to be subordinate to the Georgian president, told Soviet and foreign journalists that his men had nothing at all to do with the incident. He warned correspondents that the official authorities might try to make use of the metro station incident to discredit and disseminate false information about the National Guard.

Casualties Reported

OW0210191191 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1730 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A train carrying air-to-air missiles had an explosion in the Tbilisi suburb Didube on Wednesday morning resulting in nine persons hospitalized. One of the victims died later. The incident was reported to INTERFAX at Georgia's Health Ministry.

At the staff of the Caucasus Military District our correspondent was told that about 150 missiles had eploded in the defence freight train. There were no casualties among the guards.

Earlier the press-centre of the Georgian Council for National Security gave the official view of the incident: "it was deliberate sabotage aimed at destabilizing the situation in the republic".

At the opposition headquarters the INTERFAX correspondent was told no one there had anything to do with the blast.

National Security Council Appeals For Help

AU0210101391 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 25 Sep 91 p 1

["Message to the Georgian People and to the States and Peoples of the World" from the National Security Council of Georgia—Tbilisi, 23 September]

[Text] A military and civil putsch is continuing in Georgia whose aim is to overthrow the leadership and the president who have been elected by the people. The putsch is lead by a junta comprising the following people: Tengiz Sigua (former chairman of the Government of Georgia), Tengiz Kitovani (former commander of the National Guard), Georgiy Khoshtaria (former minister of foreign affairs of Georgia), and others. The headquarters of the putschists is situated in Shavnabada where illegal formations made up of former guardsmen have located themselves. The organizers of the putsch have established ties and entered into alliance with non-parliamentary parties and with a section of the general public. These are: the so-called National-Democratic Party (chairman—Georgiy Chanturia), the so-called National Independence Party (chairman—Irakliy Tsereteli), the so-called Christian-Democratic Union (chairman—Irakliy Shengelaya), the Popular Front (chairman—Nodar Natadze), the Rustaveli Society (former chairman—Akakiy Bakradze), and others. In addition, the following Supreme Council deputies have joined the putschists: Eldar Shengelaya, Nodar Natadze, Roman Gotsiridze, David Berdzenishvili, Tamaz Diasamidze, Paata Koguashvili, Vazha Adamiya, Georgiy Khavtasi, Akakiy Bobokhidze, David Kupreishvili, Tedo Paatashvili, and others who are in alliance with communist deputies and who are making every effort to turn parliament against the president, obtain his resignation, and abolish the post of president. The junta ia being supported by people who bear a grudge against the republic's leadership and who have lost their high posts, that section of the intelligentsia that enjoyed privileges under the Communist regime, the corrupt Communist mafia, a section of the youth that has been led astray by the propaganda of the so-called National Congress, and also by the criminal group "Mkhedrioni."

The junta is organizing protest actions demanding the resignation of the president of Georgia, is trying to

destabilize the situation and create anarchy, gain control of TV and radio with the help of illegal armed formations, and is contributing to the onset of an economic crisis. There have been several attempts to attack the Government building. From beginning to end, the actions of the junta have been unconstitutional and anti-popular. They should be condemned severely by the Georgian people as a betrayal of the national interests of Georgia.

The junta has powerful support from reactionary forces in Moscow with whom it is maintaining contacts with the help of V. Advadze, the former presidential candidate, and A. Mikadze, the correspondent for MOSCOW NEWS. To all intents and purposes E. Shevardnadze is directing the activities of the junta by sending out instructions and helping it in every way. The junta is also being supported by reactionary and chauvinistic forces in the Russian parliament. The entire Soviet press and TV are mobilized against Georgia and disinformation is being spread among the foreign public.

Moscow's aim is to carry out a coup with the help of the junta and to establish such a regime and government that will again make Georgia subordinate to the center and that will sign the so-called Union treaty while, at the same time, keep Georgia for ever in a modernized Russian empire.

The people of Georgia should stand up in defense of their independence and the gains of the democratic revolution of 28 October 1990 [the date of the national multiparty elections] and in defense of the leadership that has been elected by the people. The putsch must be brought to an end and its illegal military formations disbanded. It is only in this way that its organizers will be able to avoid criminal proceedings being brought against them.

We appeal to the governments of the states of the world to defend Georgia, which has embarked upon the path of democracy, and its legitimate government from the aggression of hostile imperial forces and not to delay in recognizing the independence of the Republic of Georgia.

The National Security Council of Georgia

Tbilisi, 23 September 1991.

Tskhinvali Political, Economic Developments Noted

LD0210094491 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0803 GMT 2 Oct 91

[By correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz, 2 Oct (TASS)—A total of 12 people were wounded—women and children among the casualties—and residential and public buildings were badly damaged as a result of the shelling of Tskhinvali over the last 24 hours from the Georgian side from Zemo-Nikozi, Tamarasheni, and Prisi villages, which are not included in the state of emergency zone.

The South Ossetian information committee press center reports that cases of hostage taking and transportation hijackings have again become more frequent on South Ossetian territory. A bus was stopped on the Dzhava-Tskhinvali road. One passenger of Ossetian nationality was killed, and ten people were taken away to an unknown destination. Another six Ossetians were taken hostage in Tskhinvali rayon on 1 October.

The Tskhinvali economic blockade continues. All roads leading to the town have been occupied by gunmen. They are hindering the delivery of humanitarian aid from Vladikavkaz to the oblast center.

Despite nighttime shooting and armed attacks on the oblast center, a new academic year has begun in the town's schools. Its first day was devoted to the memory of fellow countrymen who have been killed.

Missiles Reportedly Fired in South Ossetia

OW0310001591 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1530 GMT 3 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Georgia's Interior Ministry reports that tension continues in Southern Ossetia. Last night 15 missiles of the Alazan type were fired at Zhinvali. Two of them damaged the USSR Interior Ministry's troops' barracks. There were no casualties.

Abkhazia Leadership Appeals For End to Violence

LD0210101691 Moscow TASS in English 0919 GMT 2 Oct 91

[By correspondents Albert Kochetkov and Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[Text] Tbilisi October 2 TASS—The leadership of Abkhazia, an autonomous republic inside Georgia, called on all the opposing forces in Tbilisi to show the political wisdom and foresight to start negotiating all disagreements and forget mistrust and dislikes.

The Abkhazian Supreme Soviet Presidium and the Council of Ministers said in an appeal today the situation in Tbilisi worsens and causes serious concern as it could lead to civil war.

The appeal stressed that international opinion of Gerogia is falling, its economy collapsing and the living standards sharply deteriorating because of the conflict in the republic.

New Chief of Defense Ministry Staff Appointed

AU0210161391 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 25 Sep 91 p 1

["Decree of the President of the Republic of Georgia on the Appointment of D.A. Kutateladze as Chief of the Main Staff of the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Georgia—First Deputy Minister" issued in Tbilisi on 24 September]

[Text] To appoint Colonel Dzhemal Aleksandrovich Kutateladze as chief of the Main Staff of the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Georgia—first deputy minister.

[Signed] Zviad Gamsakhurdia, president of the Republic of Georgia

[Date] Tbilisi, 24 September 1991.

Armenia

Final List of Presidential Candidates Reported

NC0210134791 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1730 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] The Central Electoral Commission for electing deputies to the Armenian Supreme Soviet has concluded registration of candidates for president of the Armenian Republic.

The Central Electoral Commission has registered the following: Paruyr Ayrikyan, member of the Supreme Soviet Standing Commission on the Establishment of Independent Statehood and National Policy Affairs; Rafayel Gazaryan, chairman of the Supreme Soviet Standing Commission on Education, Science, Language and Culture; Supreme Soviet Deputy Vazgen Manukyan; Ashot Navasardyan, a member of the Supreme Soviet Standing Commission on the Establishment of Independent Statehood and National Policy Affairs; actor Sos Sargsyan; and Levon Ter-Petrosyan, chairman of the Supreme Soviet.

[Yerevan Radio Yerevan Network in Armenian at 0550 GMT on 2 October in its review of HAYASTANI HANRAPETUTYUN reports that "the Central Electoral Commission for electing deputies to the Armenian Supreme Soviet held its regular meeting on 1 October. It examined Vazgen Mikayelovich Manukyan's application requesting the cancellation of his nomination for the post of president of the Armenian Republic. The commission decided to accede to his request."]

Cease-Fire Communique Fails To Stop Fighting

LD0210055191 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Unfortunately, the joint communique signed a few days ago in Zheleznovodsk is still not being put into effect, Levon Ter-Petrosyan, chairman of the Armenian Supreme Soviet, told a correspondent from the RUSSIAN INFORMATION AGENCY. According to Ter-Petrosyan, the commission of representatives from Russia and Kazakhstan has yet to arrive. This view is shared by President of Azerbaijan Ayaz Mutalibov. Let me remind you that observers from Russia and Kazakhstan should arrive in Stepanakert today.

Azerbaijan

Mutalibov Issues Appeal on Political Situation

NC0210165191 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 27 Sep 91

["Text" of Azerbaijani President Ayaz Mutalibov's appeal to the Azerbaijani people on 27 September; place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Dear fellow countrymen and worthy and cautious people: The country's new situation and our republic's current circumstances have obliged me to appeal to you once again. I am appealing to all the citizens, masses, associations, movements, and ethnic groups. The Soviet Union is known as the voluntary union of free peoples, workers, and peasants—but recently it has been described as a country where violence has become widespread. The gradual entrenchment of democracy has been accompanied by a broadening struggle for independence throughout the country. In other words, the structure, which had seemed so magnificent, is gradually collapsing. Regrettably, workers and innocent people are suffering during this process

The patience of the people has been tried by the economic problems and high prices as well as by the prevalence of disorder, lawlessness, and criminal activities. Azerbaijan's independence process has been demanding, inspirational, and, regrettably, painful.

The inspirational aspects have strengthened our faith in our future and have encouraged us to continue, and the disastrous and tragic incidents caused by political trickery should teach us to be more careful. Furthermore, these lessons should make us realize the full extent of our responsibilities in the historic tasks that will determine Azerbaijan's future. We need more [word indistinct] to assess the developments, more maturity to complete our urgent tasks, and more foresight to successfully work toward establishing a sovereign state in Azerbaijan. The failure for many decades to establish an organized system to address social needs and the attention that was focused almost exclusively on the establishment of economic sectors which served the empire's interests rather than those of the local people have had very painful results which have only surfaced at the present time. The disruption of inter- republican economic relations and of the establishments created as part of the united economy system has aggravated everyone's situation, including that of the of the Azerbaijani people.

One of the difficulties in removing this tragic situation is the problem created by the transformation of private business activity into [word indistinct], squeezing special consumers out of the way. Not only are they unable to make a significant contribution to improving the peoples' lives, but they also find it difficult to improve their own activity, regardless of the freedom the new era has given them. The [word indistinct], which lasted for many years, has affected our culture, fine arts, literature, education, and even our daily life. All these factors have affected our way of thinking and have had unpleasant repercussions on our moral character.

Our parliament has announced the restoration of Azerbaijan's independence, but we are still in the transition period toward full independence and sovereignty. It would be wrong to believe that we can complete this transition solely through decrees and legal documents, as practical work is necessary. This is the only way to effect radical changes in every field. The republic's leaders believe that each and every citizen who is aware of his responsibility in the effort to achieve independence and who is prepared to fulfill his patriotic duties will be attracted to this effort. Those who are capable and successful should join this effort without objection. Under the circumstances, the question of the cadres' ethnicity or political affiliation must not prevent us from uniting to make this common effort. Different approaches can be taken, but, if these approaches lead toward independence—which is the goal that has been adopted by the Azerbaijani people—then the unity of all the popular forces will undoubtedly be achieved. This will provide a greater opportunity for selecting the best method for solving our current problems. As such, [words indistinct] and Azerbaijan can remove even the most serious obstacles within its territory.

It is a fact that the worker cadres were employed in accordance with the [word indistinct] principle for many years, and it is time to remove this principle. Azerbaijan needs to give an opportunity to new professionals who have new and progressive ideas. We must also focus more attention on training young cadres so they can be employed in the near future. The selection of the republic's experienced sons for work has become very important.

It is our youths who suffer from the [word indistinct] policy most, as many capable youths have been discouraged by what they consider a hopeless situation. This makes it difficult for us to benefit from the significant resource we have at hand. More importance must be attached to the training of experts, not only in our republic, but also in foreign countries. Certain steps have been taken in that direction, but it has not become state policy. The practice of promoting the competent workers on the lower rungs of the hierarchy has begun in the republic. This has been necessitated by the demands of the new era, and we shall gradually broaden the work in this field. Undoubtedly, the inclusion of capable young men in our work force will enable us to completely reorganize our activity.

While I am discussing administrative reforms, I must mention the justified requests that the parliament has received. It has become apparent through the parliamentary elections that the electoral system must be modernized. The resources of the work collectives and the industrial organizations must be used more productively, and the most deserving deputies must be elected to the parliament. The way the parliament functions must also be improved.

Because we have adopted a market economy system and have begun to use modern technological equipment, we need to attract workers from the outside. Considering the importance of this matter, we must present concrete proposals on this matter to the developed countries in the near future.

The present era makes it necessary for us to draw up a plan for our economic and political relations with foreign countries and to establish a comprehensive program for long-term economic and social policy in our republic. This is a serious and responsible procedure that requires us to gradually phase out the old relations. All the people must unite their efforts and sincerely cooperate so this difficult procedure can be achieved in a rather comfortable way. A state that has declared its independence and that makes [words indistinct] regarding its executive mechanisms, does not have the right to take unconsidered steps. We must win the support of the entire population and cooperate with them in accordance with our laws.

We must now examine ways to safeguard human values and to broaden opportunities for development. This will enable us to expand democracy and effectively guarantee human rights throughout the world, including in our republic.

Our people, who experienced the events of 20 January 1990, do not have the right to make these mistakes again, because there are forces that will rejoice in our mistakes and that will attempt to involve us in new political intrigues. We must not give them this opportunity.

The fabricated Nagorno-Karabakh problem has harmed the Azerbaijani and Armenian peoples significantly. We greatly appreciate the initiative made by President Yeltsin and President Nazarbayev to mediate for peace between Azerbaijan and Armenia, and, furthermore, we hope that their talks in Azerbaijan and Armenia and the official joint communique issued in Zheleznovodsk will bear fruit.

Dear fellow countrymen, history has proven that uniting around a common goal is the only way people like us can achieve true independence. Individuals may have various differences and personal objectives in life, but right now our main objective should be to avoid any kind of selfish behavior so we can defend our homeland and serve our people.

I appeal to each and every one of you once again. I am depending on your support at the present time, when the

future of Azerbaijan is being decided. I believe that we will gain the strength we need through our united government.

Dear fellow countrymen, believing in all this, I appeal to you on behalf of Azerbaijan and urge you to unite.

People's Front Presents Demands at Rally

LD0210194891 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1800 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] To urgently convene the extraordinary session of Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet, to adopt the law on the army and, after that, to dissolve the parliament, these are the main demands put forward at the meeting organized by the Azerbaijan Peoples' Front, which began today in Baku in front of the Supreme Soviet building.

Passions are heating up. Some expect that the Supreme Soviet building and television center to be stormed. However, the Peoples' Front leaders who were speaking at the meeting have declared that:

[Begin recording] [Isa Gambarov, Azerbaijan People's Front] The square in front of the Supreme Soviet building will become a platform for the continuous meetings. People will stay here overnight. We shall stand by our demands to the very end. In the future, we may call on all the population of the republic to commit acts of civil disobedience. [end recording]

Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast

Area Commandant Says Situation 'Difficult'

OW0210215991 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2100 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Commandant of the Nagorno Karabakh State of Emergency Area, Major General Boris Maksin, in an address to the population characterised the situation in the region as difficult. Practically every day people are being killed. The commandant pledged that in future Interior Ministry forces will try to find peaceful means of guaranteeing the safety of citizens. He cited as an example the mediation by the military in the conclusion of a peace agreement in the village of Kirkidjan in the outskirts of Stepanakert with a mixed Armenian/Azerbaijani population.

Meanwhile, the general warned that the army would forcefully fulfil the requirements laid down by the state of emergency regime.

However, according to the Nagorno Karabakh Internal Affairs Department the situation has on the whole stabilised over the past few days. It was only in the Gadrutsky area that two Armenian villages were shelled. The attack ceased when the Interior Ministry forces returned fire. There were no casualties.

Deputy Sends Message to Gorbachev, Yeltsin

LD0310003591 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2200 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] More than 100 people have become victims of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict since the signing of the joint communique on the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast. In connection with a sharp activization of military actions in the conflict zone, Zoriy Balayan, USSR people's deputy from the autonomous oblast, has sent telegrams to the USSR and Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic presidents and to the USSR defense and internal affairs ministers.

Balayan says that since achieving agreements in Zheleznovodsk about 30 people have been killed and more than 100 people have been injured. More than 200 houses have been destroyed. Balayan proposes withdrawing all ammunition from the Azerbaijan Special Purpose Militia Detachment, including armored personnel carriers, artillery, helicopters, and tanks. Only under this condition can practical implementation of decisions of the joint communique on the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast be started, stresses the letter of the people's deputy.

General Denies Soviet Army Role

OW0210225291 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2100 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Commander of the First Army, Lieutenant General Sokolov, has declared that units of the Soviet Army are not taking part in the bombardment of Armenian villages. When asked from where the Azerbaijanis had acquired their armoured vehicles, the general said that the Ministry of Internal Affairs had transferred 100 armoured vehicles to Azerbaijan in 1989. Moreover, Azerbaijan has also been converting tractors into armoured vehicles.

A USSR Peoples' Deputy from Nagorno-Karabakh, Zoriy Balayan, has sent telegrammes to the presidents of Russia and the Soviet Union and to the Soviet Minister of Defence, in connection with the violent flare up of military activity in the conflict region. He reports that since the Zheleznovodsk agreement 30 people have been killed, more than 100 injured and over 200 homes destroyed. Mr. Balayan proposed that the Azerbaijan (OMON) [Special Purpose Militia Detachment] riot police have their military hardware, including armoured vehicles, artillery, helicopters and tanks, confiscated. This, Mr. Balayan stressed in his letter, would be the only way of ensuring that the decisions of the joint communique on Nagorno-Karabakh be realised.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev, Vranitzky Meet Press at Baykonyr

LD0210185791 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1114 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Excerpts] Baykonyr, 2 Oct (TASS)—The Soyuz TM-13 spacecraft was launched here today. [passage omitted] Among the guests on the viewing platform of the launch facility were Ivan Silayev, chairman of the interrepublican economic committee; Franz Vranitzky, federal chancellor of the Austrian Republic; Nursultan Nazarbayev, president of Kazakhstan; and leaders of the republics who arrived here at the invitation of the Kazakh president after spending time in Alma-Ata discussing the treaty on an economic community.

Having seen off the international crew, Nursultan Nazarbayev and Franz Vranitzky organized a news conference for Soviet and foreign journalists. How the sovereignty of the republics can be combined with general space research, the possibility of only one department running such a powerful and costly launching site as Baykonyr, the continuation of international flights, and how sovereign Kazakhstan will start to establish international contacts—these issues were the subject of discussion at this news conference.

Kazakhstan is ready for any form of cooperation on a mutually beneficial basis—this viewpoint was shared by practically all participants in the meeting. Doubtless, subsidies from the country's budget will be needed. It was particularly emphasized that military launches from the launch site will not pose any danger to other countries, regardless of the jurisdiction of Baykonyr itself.

Kyrgyzstan

Minorities' Lawful Interests Will Be 'Reinforced'

OW0210230791 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1530 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Meeting Monday [30 September] with citizens of Kara-Kol the Kyrghyz President Askar Akayev said that the disintegration of the totalitarian centre and proclamation of Kyrghyzstan's statehood and economic independence had caused worry to the ethnic minorities in the republic.

A. Akayev explained that the central government had never, in fact, protected the interests of minorities, but as evidence shows, the apparatus of the CPSS Central Committee and the USSR KGB had been fanning ethnic conflicts and tensions.

"Now that friendly relations and cooperation are being established with Russia, Uzbekistan and other republics", said A. Akayev, "the guarantees of rights and lawful interests of ethnic minorities in Kyrghyzstan will be strongly reinforced".

In A. Akayev's opinion, Kyrghyzstan has no objective causes for worsening inter-ethnic relations, and, as President, he represents the interests not only of the Kyrghyz people, but also of any other nationals residing in the republic.

Tajikistan

Supreme Soviet Suspends Communist Activities

LD0310002291 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2122 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Excerpts] In Dushanbe today [2 October] after a long debate and a secret ballot, the Tajikistan Supreme Soviet decided to suspend the activities of the republic's Communist Party and its successor, the Socialist Party. [passage omitted]

However, this does not satisfy the opposition, which is striving for the resignation of Nabiyev, head of the Tajikistan Supreme Soviet. The opposition rally in front of the Supreme Soviet building is continuing. The number of people on hunger strike today reached 129. Some have been on a hunger strike for over a week. [video shows demonstrators and deputies in parliament]

Opposition Demand Met

OW0210182191 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1730 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Wednesday [2 October] the Supreme Soviet of Tajikistan suspended the activities of the Communist Party and its offspring—Socialist Party. INTERFAX was informed of the decision at the headquarters of the popular movement Rastohez. Pending the court decision on the support by the Tajik Communist party of the anti-constitutional coup in August, the party's property is to be controlled by the republic's Council of Ministers.

That meets the second demand of the opposition holding a marathon rally in the central square of Dushanbe. Earlier parliament met its first demand—a repeal of an emergency situation in the republic.

Other Republic Cities Join Political Struggle

LD0210154291 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1300 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] The situation in Tajikistan has aggravated after the residents of a number of other cities joined the political struggle following the capital of the republic, Dushanbe. In Khojent the local strike committee announced a walkout which was supported by industrial enterprises in seven neighboring cities. They demand ending pressure on parliament by the participants of the many-day meeting in Dushanbe. At the same time there are meetings organized by the opposition in Khojent and Ura-Tyube which ended in strikes. At the demand of the opposition parliament should decide the question of suspending the activity of the Communist Party of the republic and nationalizing its property.